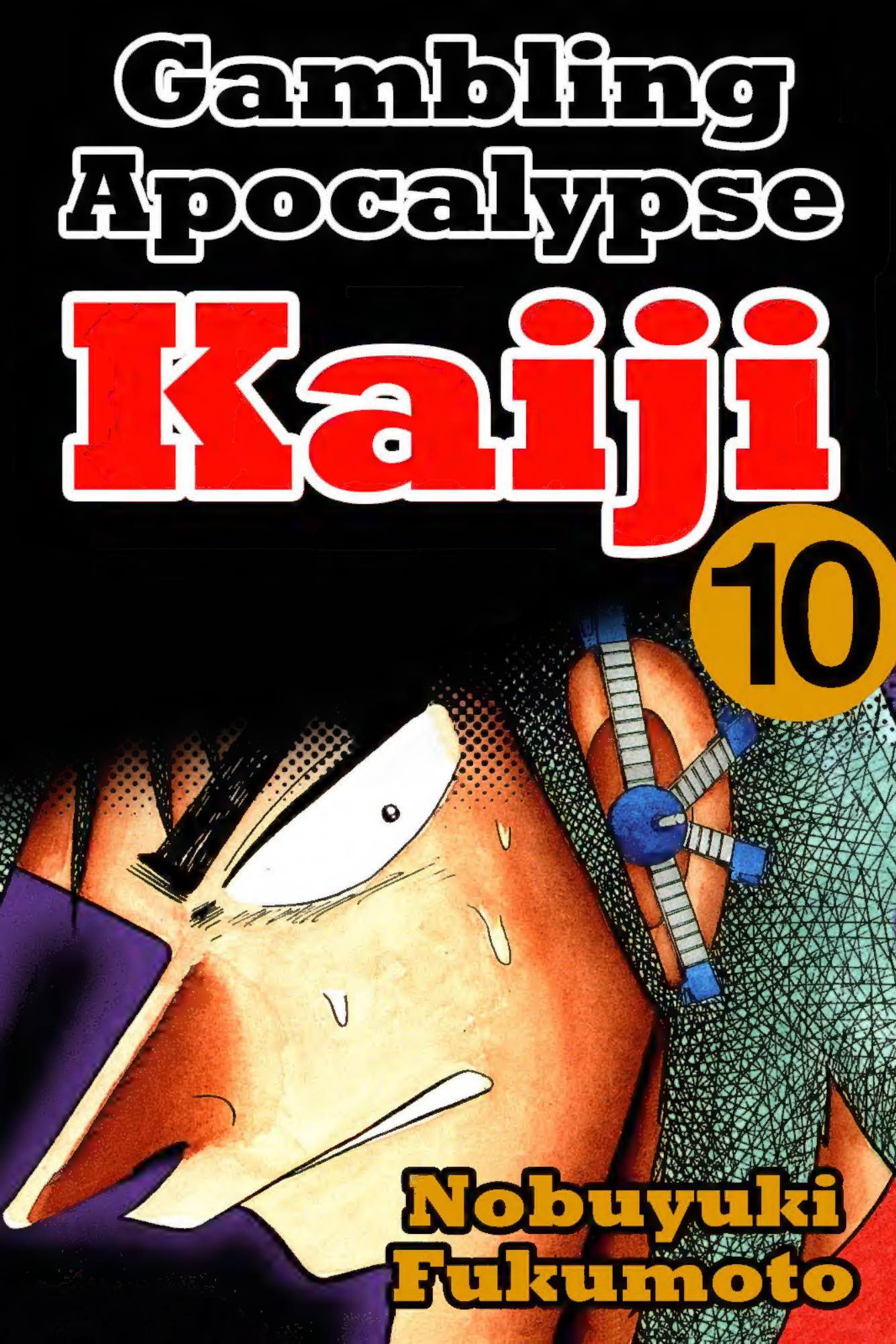
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

10



Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:107 Close Fire

Chapter:108 Iron Wall

Chapter:109 Bloodshed

Chapter:110 Sport

Chapter:111 Quagmire

Chapter:112 Chaos

Chapter:113 Suspicion

Chapter:114 Exposure

Chapter:115 The Truth

Chapter:116 Sacrilege

Chapter:117 Boundaries

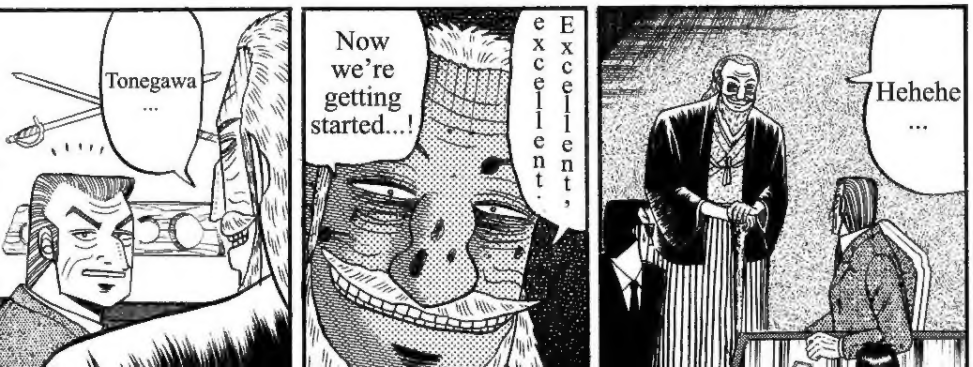
Chapter:118 Decisions

Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

Chapter 107: Close Fire

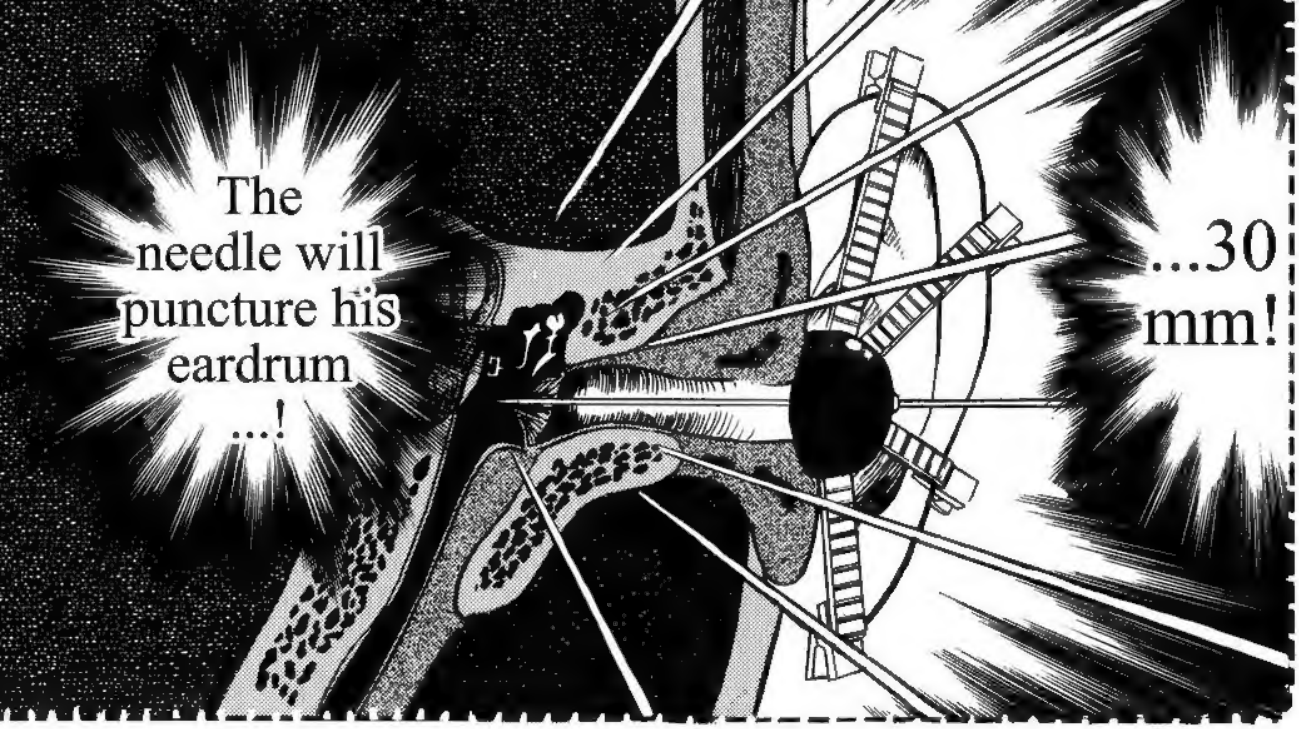
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…

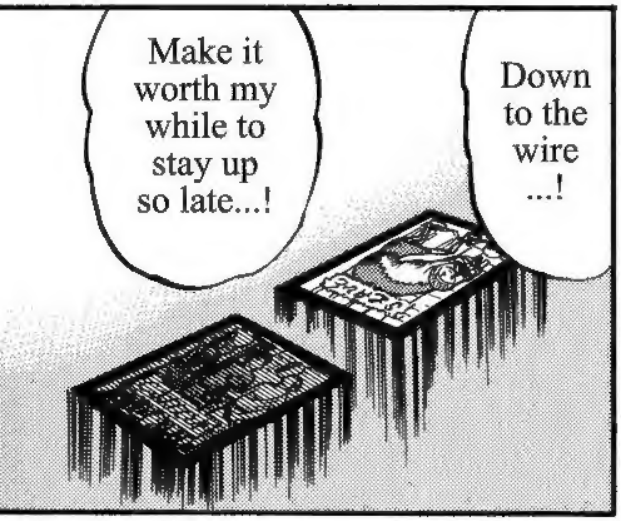
SQUEAK
10
Slave
Em
Sir ...!
S...
Quickly, before the boy has a chance to change his mind...!

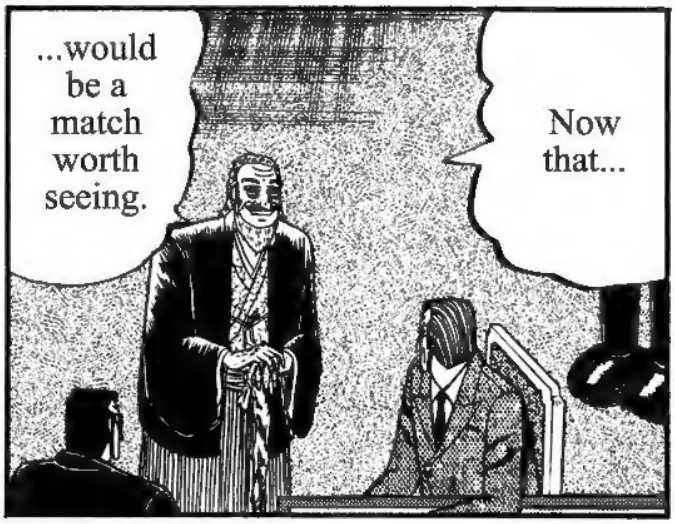

Tonegawa ...
Now we're getting started...!
Excellent, excellent.
Hehehe ...

Don't stick your nose in where you're not wanted.
Are you sure...?
Here, now...!
10mm ...!?
...and write down the bets as you hear them.
Your job is to keep your mouth shut...

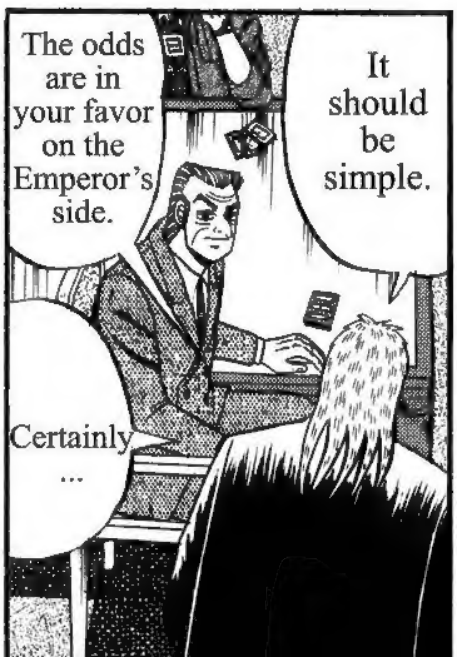
I absolutely ...
... command you to win the next match!
.....
...even if he bets only 1mm in the remaining six matches, should he lose every match he will still reach...
7 8 9 10 11
Emperor
Slave
...Kaiji-kun will have lost a total of 24mm.
If you win these 10mm...
If that should happen ...
Hehehe
Sir...!


The needle will puncture his eardrum ...!
...30 mm!


Make it worth my while to stay up so late...!
Down to the wire ...!


...would be a match worth seeing.
Now that...

...you can't expect to lose.

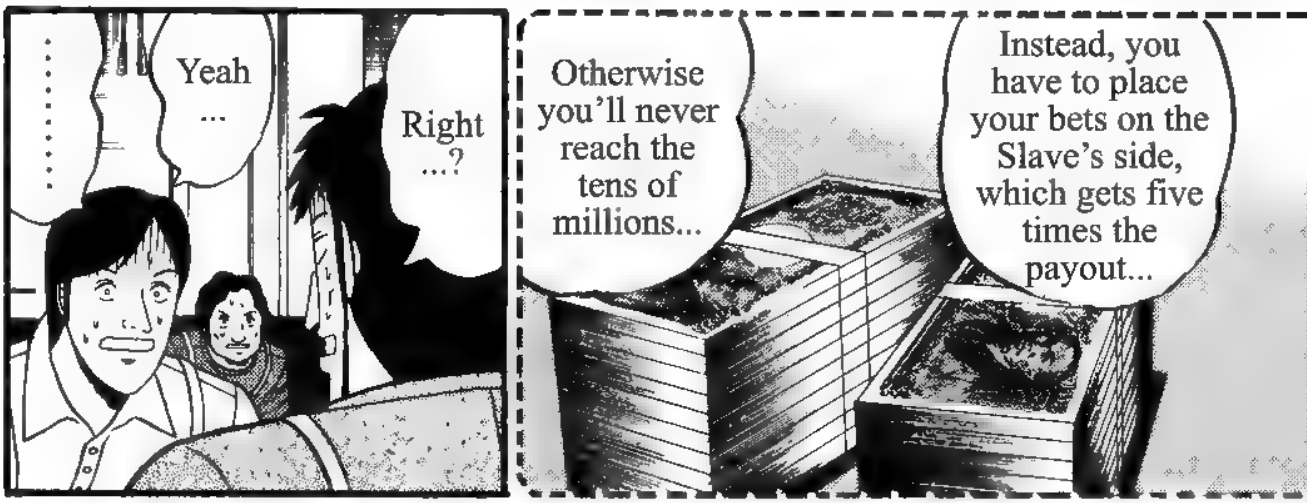

The odds are in your favor on the Emperor's side.
It should be simple.
Certainly ...

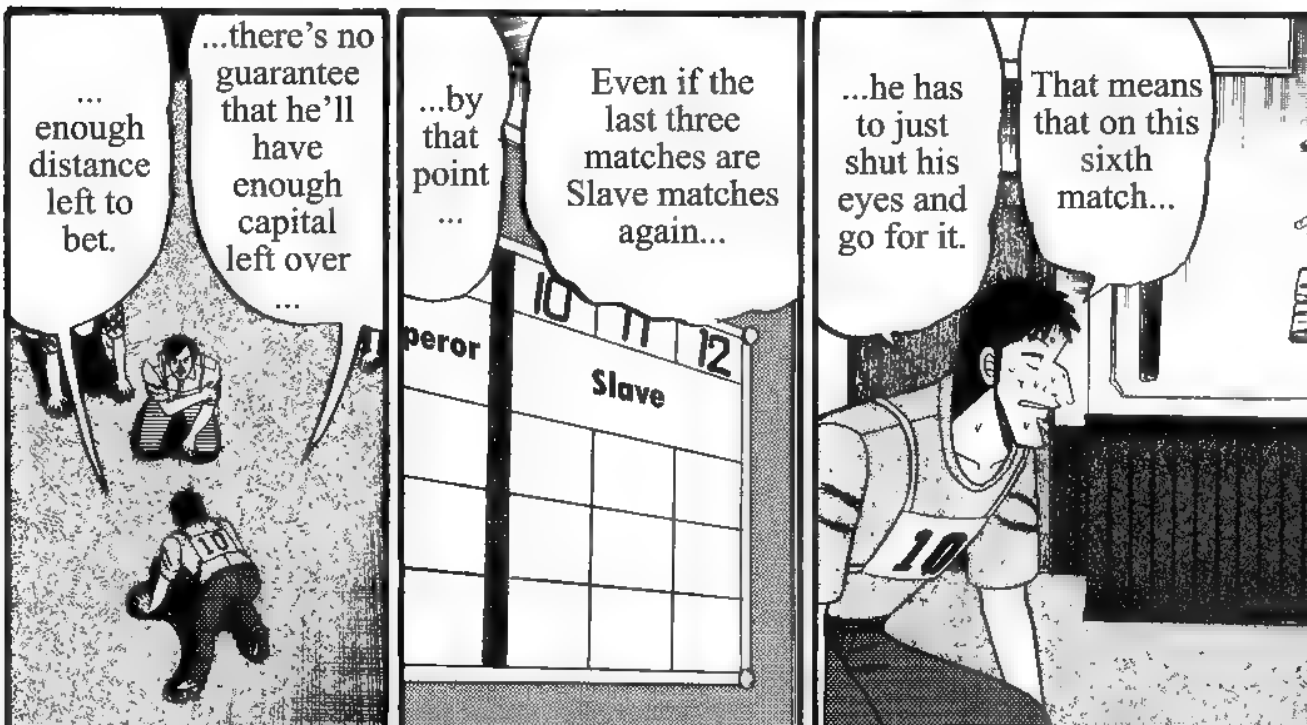
Hehehe

It won't be a problem.
Leave it to me...
.....
.....
That idiot...
ざわ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
Is he crazy ...?
What's wrong with him...?
What is he thinking ...?
WHISPER
WHISPER

I'm sure he's taken that into account ...
Right ...?
.....
Besides, his chances of winning on the Slave's side are already low ...
...on such a losing streak?
How can he bet 10mm when he's already...
4-
Sla
10
2
2
10
After all...
.....
Huh ...?
...then the big payoff will be outta his reach.
If he doesn't make his move now...
?
This is his last chance ...
Think about it ...
Huh ...?

Even if you stake a huge wager on the Emperor's side...
Team
...the payoff will be miniscule.
10
10
.....
...is to win as the Slave!
...
your only choice
...
In Emperor, in order to win a good chunk of money...


.....
Yeah ...
Right ...?
Otherwise you'll never reach the tens of millions...
Instead, you have to place your bets on the Slave's side, which gets five times the payout...


... enough distance left to bet.
...there's no guarantee that he'll have enough capital left over ...
...by that point ...
Even if the last three matches are Slave matches again...
peror
10
11
12
Slave
...he has to just shut his eyes and go for it.
That means that on this sixth match...
10

...while he's still got some distance left...
...a big wager as Slave in the sixth match...
Slave
...could be his last chance.
...into the tenth match with only 4 or 5mm left.
He might wind up heading ...
That means that ...
...he loses!?
What if...
But ...
...even if it is risky.
He's gotta make a go of it...
Exactly ...!
...the needle will take his eardrum!
.....
...and if he can't win any of those last six matches ...
If he loses now...
Emperor
Slave
Didn't you hear what the director just said?
What will happen then ...!?

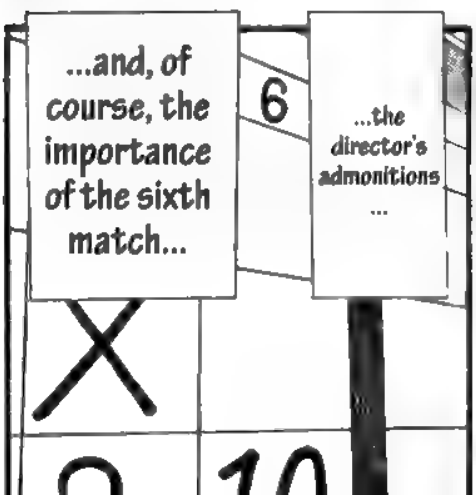
The possibility is there...
.....
11
.....
10
Huh ...?
...but Kaiji-san must be counting on that not happening.
Even with terrible luck he'll probably take one of those matches.
It's unlikely that he could lose three in a row on the Emperor's side.
...the Emperor's side has an overwhelming advantage.
In this game...
EMPEROR
10 millimeters ...
...but at some point you just have to take the risk.
There's no end to the "what-ifs"...
But ...
.....
That's probably Kaiji-san's reasoning ...
10
7

Just one millimeter extra ...

.....

... Tonegawa pauses...

...since the game of Emperor began...
For the first time ...


...and, of course, the importance of the sixth match...
...the director's admonitions ...
6
X
2
10

Kaiji's determination ...

...in his deliberations!

...since the game began, Tonegawa hesitated!
Time slowed down for him, and for the first time ...
...they began to weigh heavily on Tonegawa.
Taken all together...
However ...
.....
...his decision!
FWIP
...he eventually made...

Huh, Tonegawa ...?
How do you like it now ...?

Hmph ...

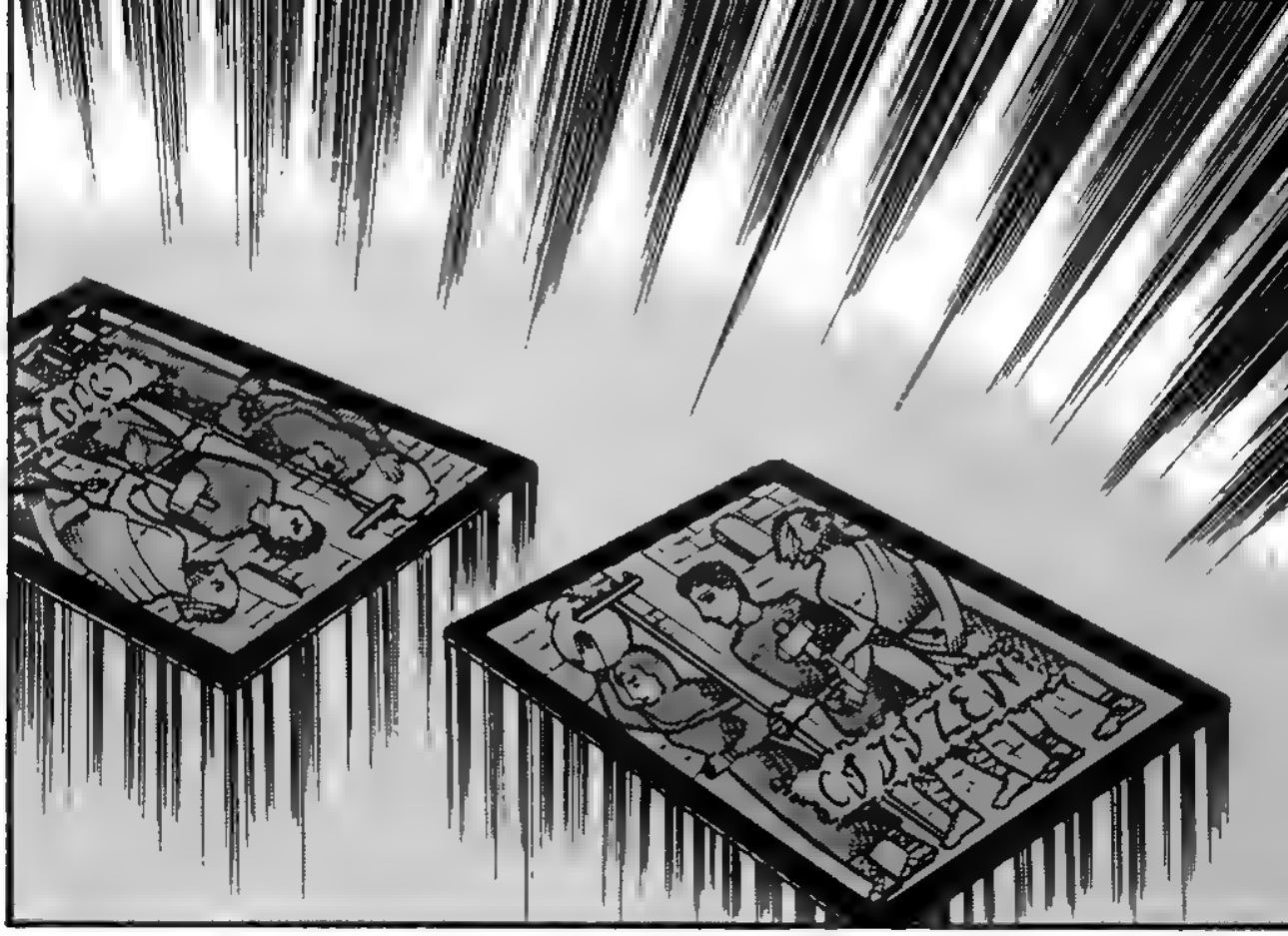
The next move was Kaiji's...!

...but this match is the first one you can't afford to lose.
Maybe the odds are on your side as the Emperor...

Now things are heating up...!

...isn't it!
The game's finally getting interesting ...

For the first time ...
...you're actually afraid of losing.
...this is the first time...
In other words...
The first time your neck is on the line.
Kaiji set his card...!
FWIP
...this is my card!
In that case...
...the game is getting to you.
Play ...!
Both players had thrown their cards.
The first trick of the sixth match.

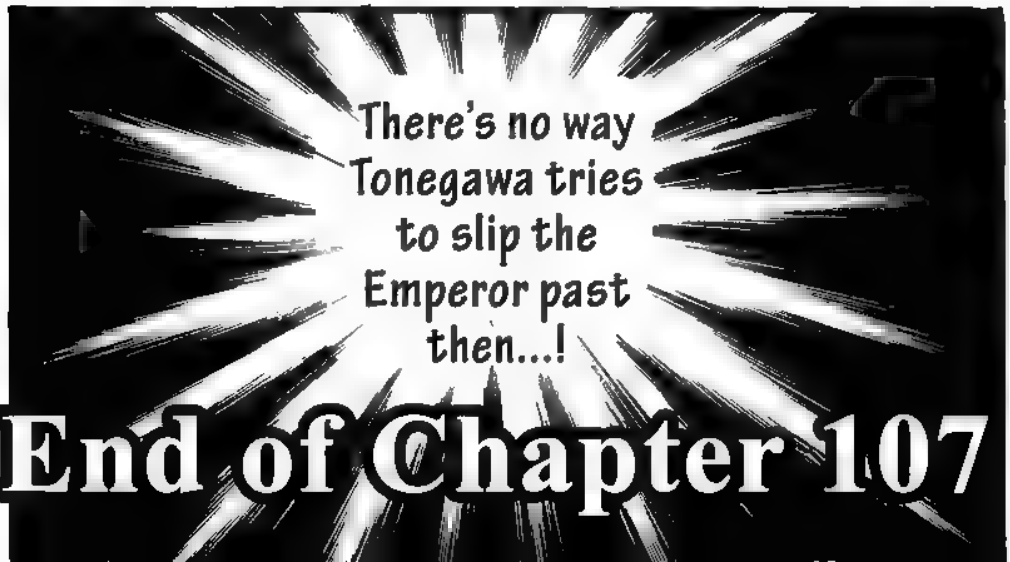


Citizen and Citizen ...!

Just as I suspected ...!

They'll choose to play it safe instead...!
...that they do something rash.
FWIP
...the less likely it is...
Once a person starts to gets afraid
If he had played Emperor first...
There's no reason to try anything risky...
...you've got a chance to win, risk-free, should your opponent follow up with the Slave.
On the Emperor's side...
...in either the first trick or the third!
There's no way he plays his key card, the Emperor...
...he'd have put himself at a disadvantage.
...and given me a chance to read his expression...
But the second trick...
The second trick or the fourth...!
...he'll wait until I play first.
Instead...

!! has already been taken care of!



End of Chapter 107

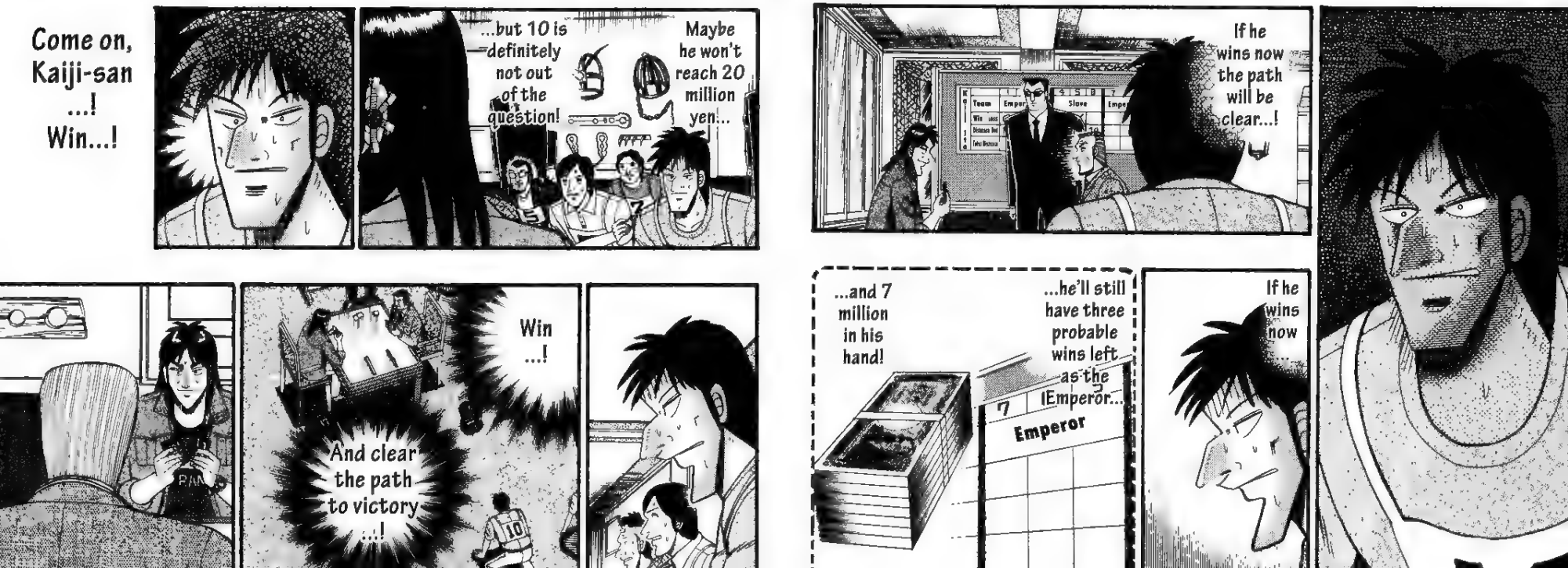
He can't ...!

He won't ...!

...to slip the Emperor past me!

There's no way he tries ...

Chapter 108: Iron Wall


Come on, Kaiji-san ...! Win...!
...but 10 is definitely not out of the question!
Maybe he won't reach 20 million yen...
If he wins now the path will be clear...!
Win ...!
And clear the path to victory ...!
...and 7 million in his hand!
...he'll still have three probable wins left as the Emperor...
Emperor
If he wins now

.....

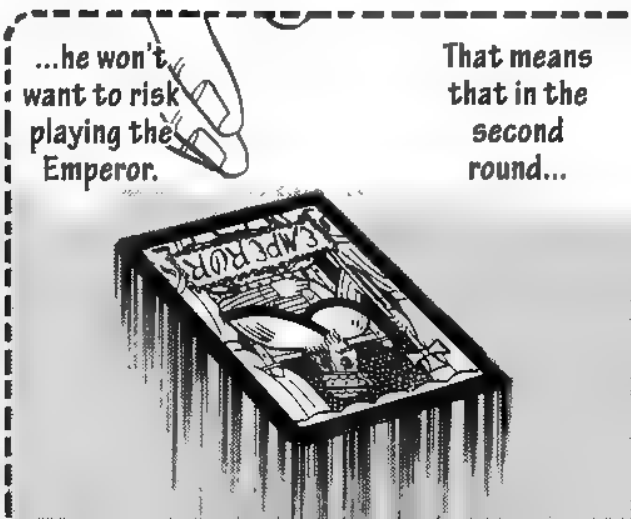
...that he's got something to lose.
This match is the first time...

...is really squirming now!
Tonegawa ...

He won't be able to overcome his doubts...!
...he'll start to second guess himself.

Now that he's on the spot...

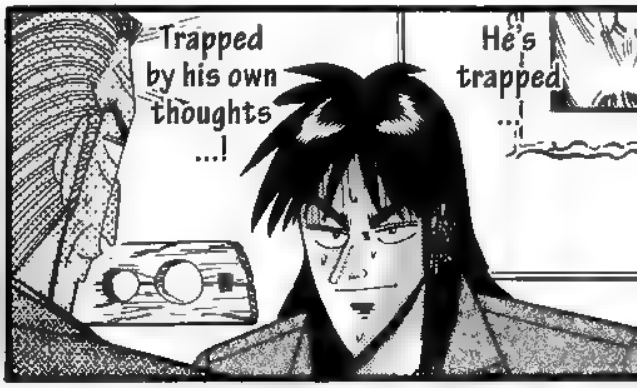
There's no way ...!


...he won't want to risk playing the Emperor.
That means that in the second round...

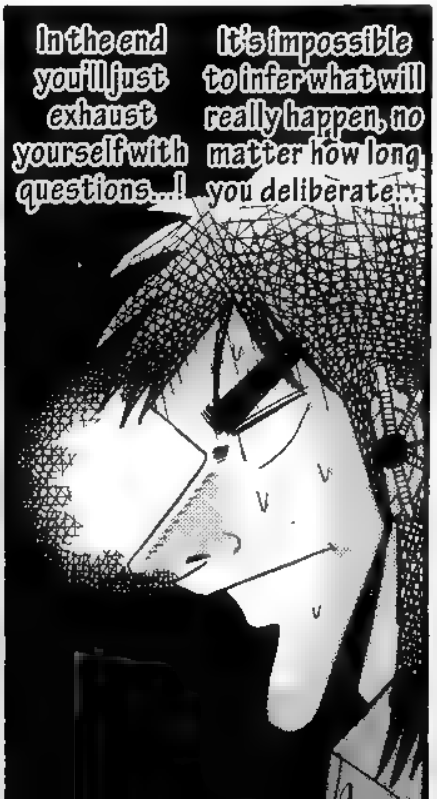
...I threw Slave on the second trick both times!
...while I was playing on the Slave's side...
In the fourth and fifth matches...
I did it as part of my plan...!
But the fifth was different ...!
...without really thinking about it...
In the fourth match I did so...
...in Tonegawa's mind that I like to play Slave in the second round.
...and more concerned with planting the idea...
Because in the fifth match I was less concerned with winning or losing...
I was prepared to lose.
In other words ...
... Tonegawa would feel afraid!
...then when the stakes got high...
If I could plant that idea...

...that I like to play Slave in the second round!
He'll still be under the illusion...
...he still won't be able to shake that nagging doubt.
Even if he thinks there's no way I'd do it three times in a row...

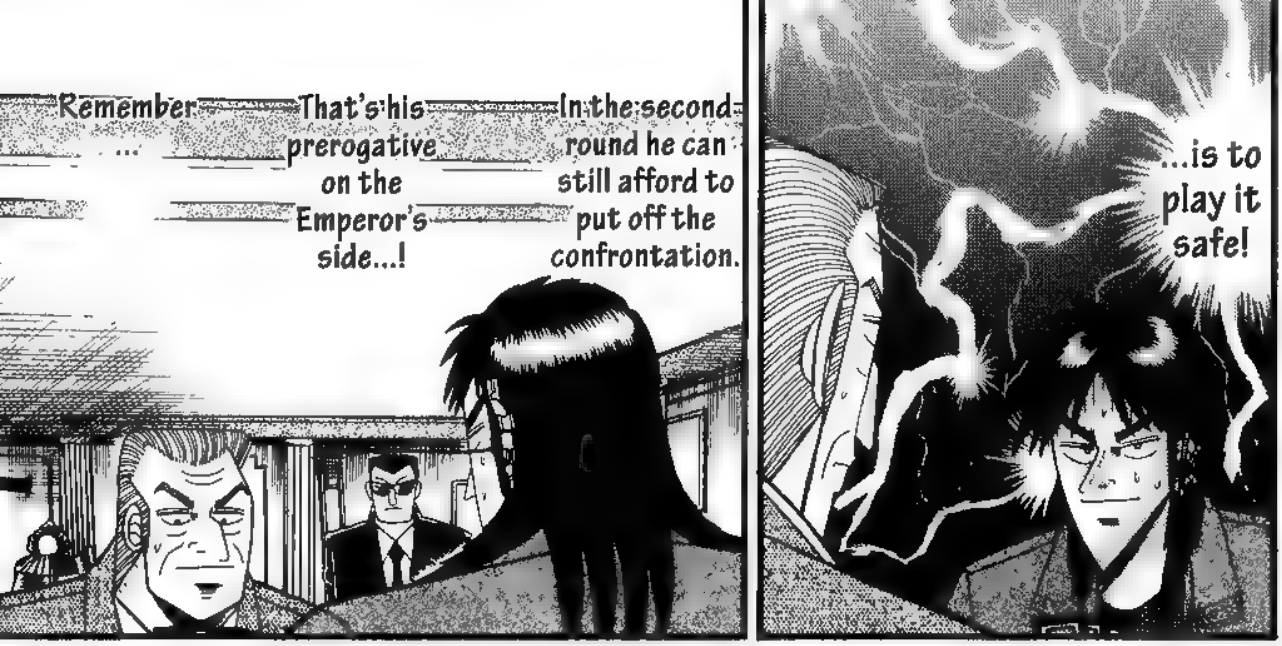
Of course...
Repeating like a broken record...!

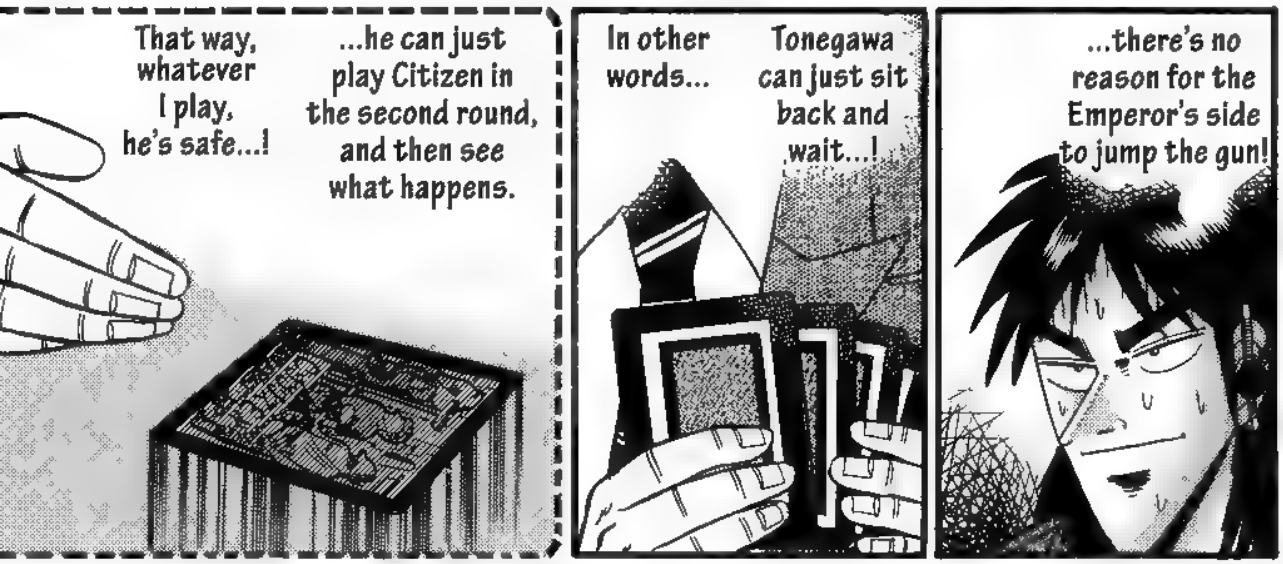

Trapped by his own thoughts...!
He's trapped...

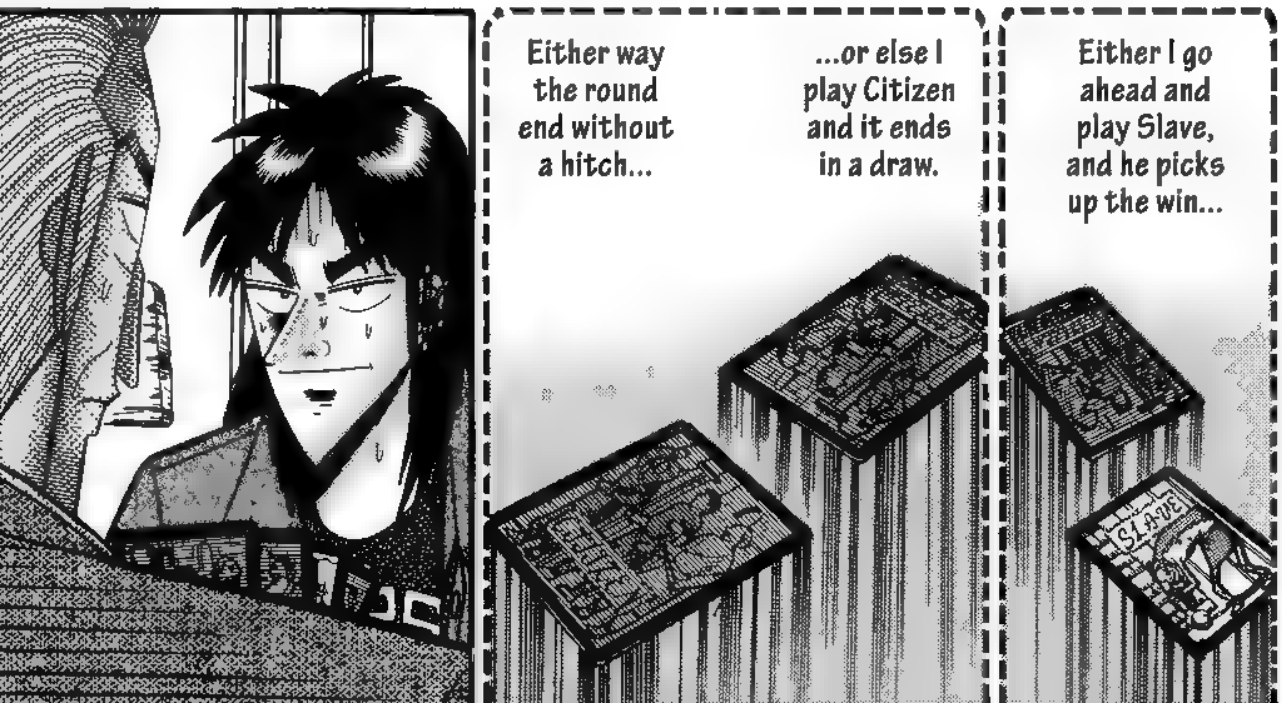
...after he exhausts his own questions, the only conclusion Tonegawa can reach...
And...

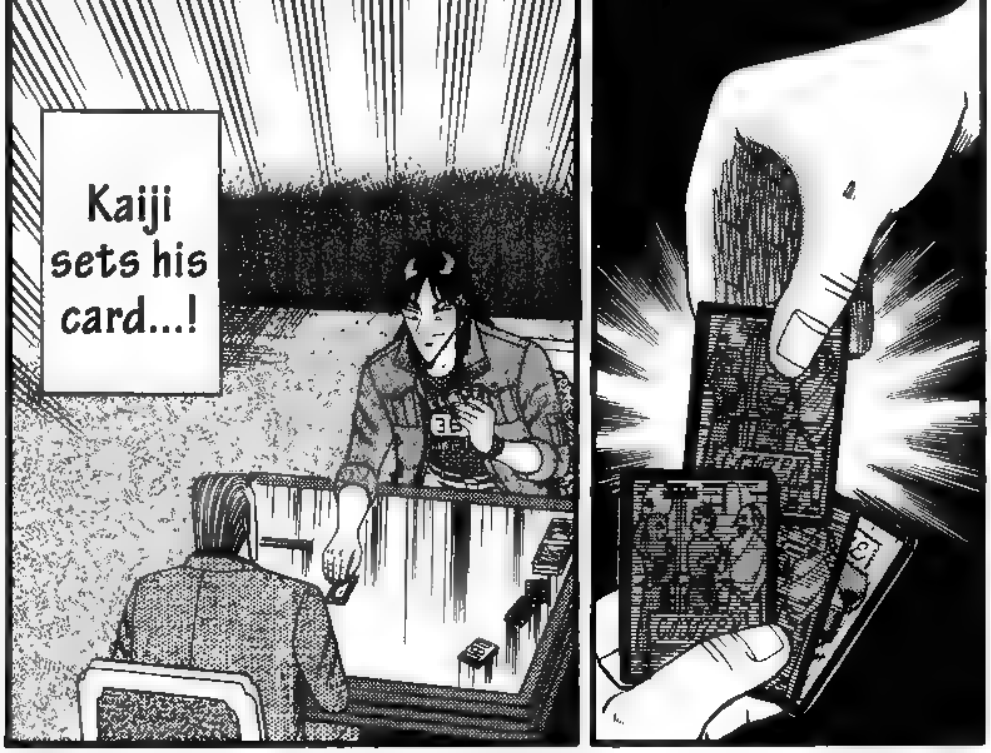

In the end you'll just exhaust yourself with questions...!
It's impossible to infer what will really happen, no matter how long you deliberate...

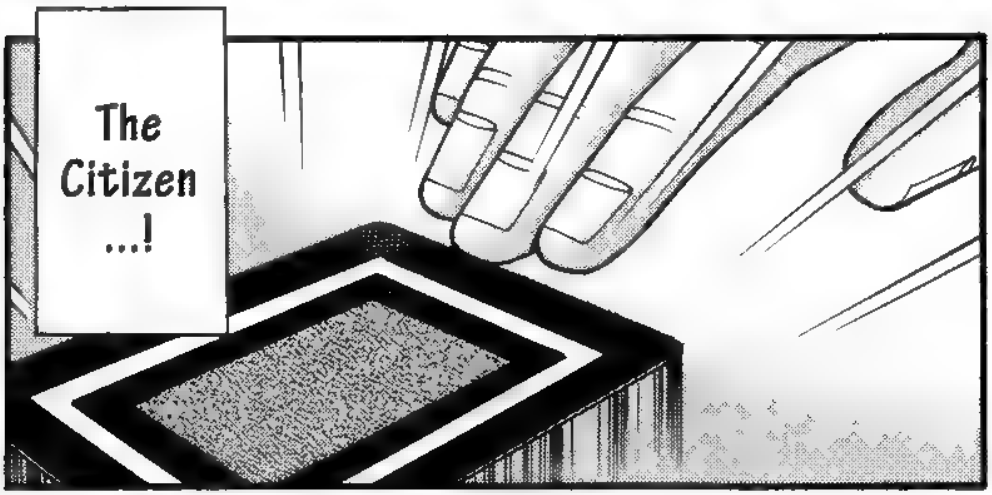
...there's no clear answer in a situation like this.


Remember...
That's his prerogative on the Emperor's side...!
In the second round he can still afford to put off the confrontation.
...is to play it safe!


That way, whatever I play, he's safe...!
...he can just play Citizen in the second round, and then see what happens.
In other words...
Tonegawa can just sit back and wait...!
...there's no reason for the Emperor's side to jump the gun!

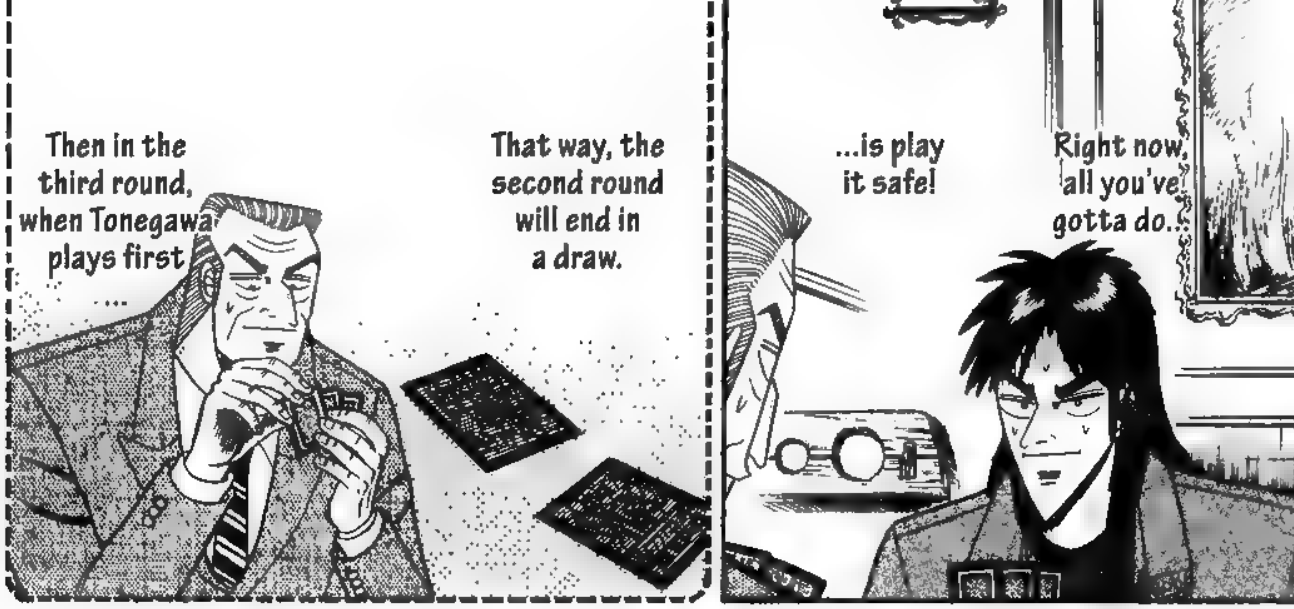

Either way the round end without a hitch...
...or else I play Citizen and it ends in a draw.
Either I go ahead and play Slave, and he picks up the win...

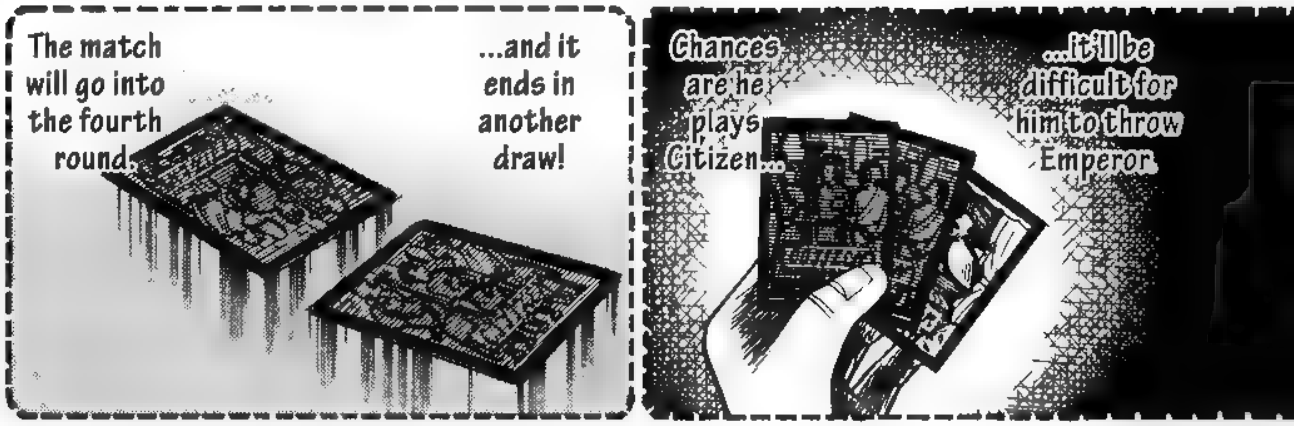




...is why take the chance!?

Tonegawa ...!
You can't...!
You won't risk it ...!

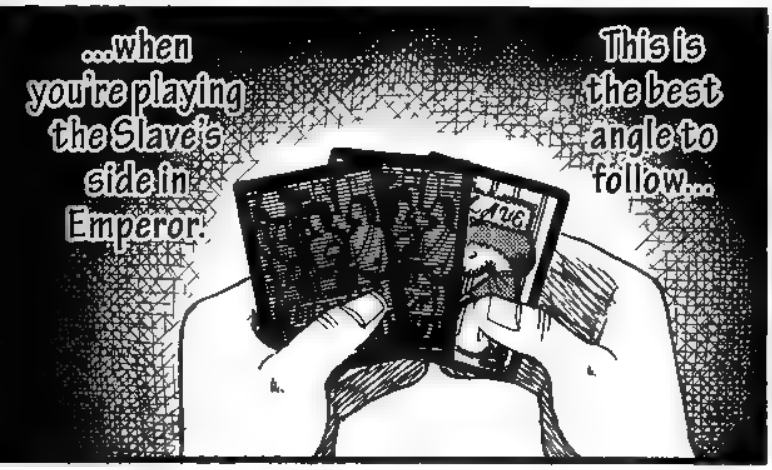

Then in the third round, when Tonegawa plays first ....
That way, the second round will end in a draw.
...is play it safe!
Right now, all you've gotta do...


The match will go into the fourth round.
...and it ends in another draw!
Chances are he plays Citizen...
...it'll be difficult for him to throw Emperor.

...if I can force the match into the fourth round...
Since the odds are against me on the Slave's side...
...the fourth trick is all a matter of luck.
When it comes down to it...
...half the battle!
...then that's already ...
...where the chances are 50%...

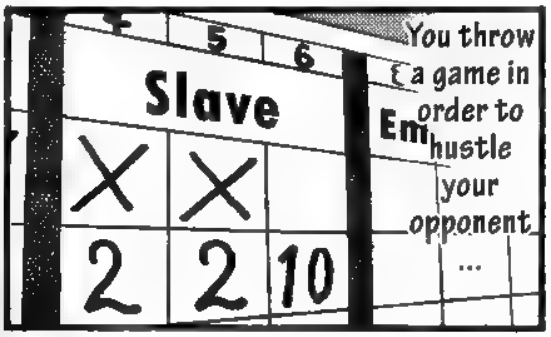
This time I'm betting 10...!
2
10

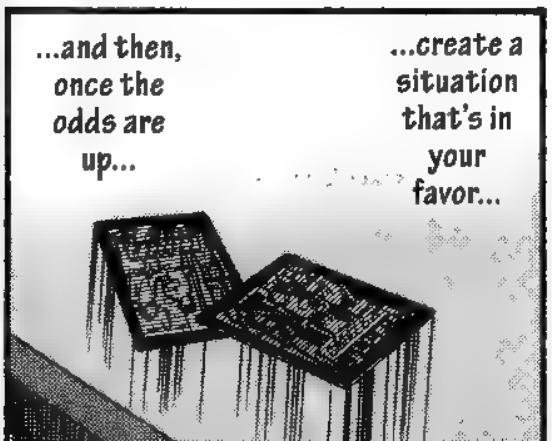
...I'm not betting 2mm this time.
Plus, on top of it all...


...when you're playing the Slave's side in Emperor.
This is the best angle to follow...

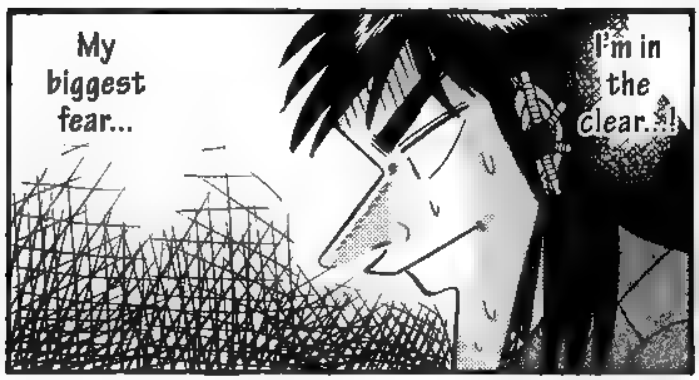
This is it...!

That's the way to do it...!
...bet it all!
2
10
14

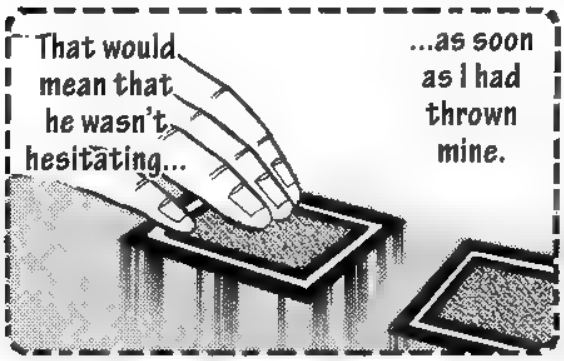

5
6
Slave
X X
2 2 10
You throw a game in order to hustle your opponent...


...and then, once the odds are up...
...create a situation that's in your favor...

Alright ...
Hmph ...
.....


My biggest fear...
I'm in the clear...!

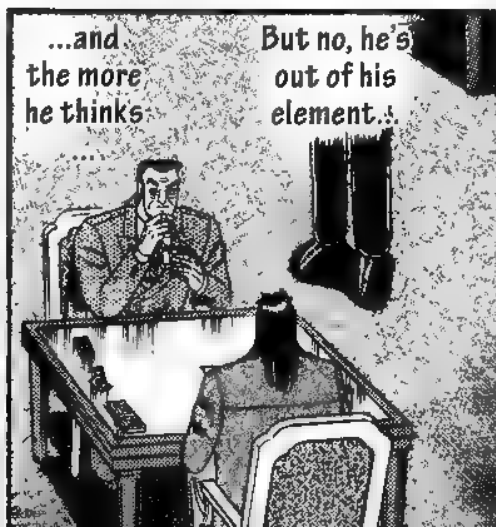
... since I played my card...
It's already been three minutes...


That would mean that he wasn't hesitating...
...as soon as I had thrown mine.

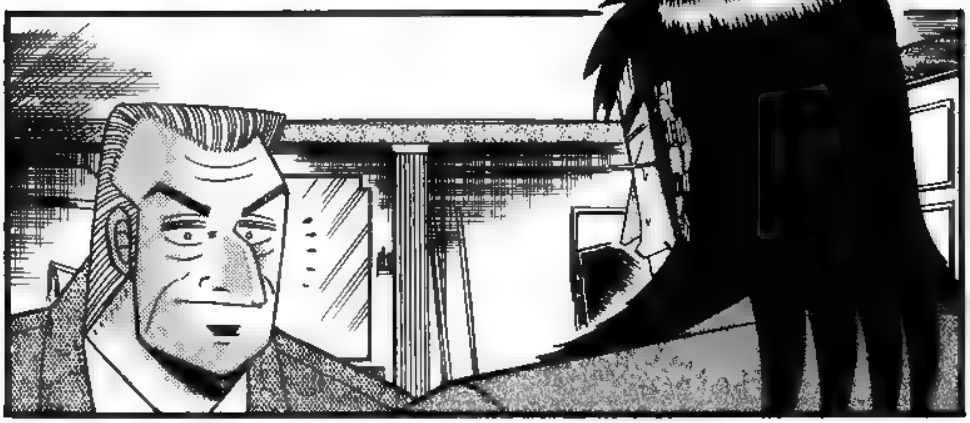
...as I throw his own card...
...was that Tonegawa would choose by instinct...

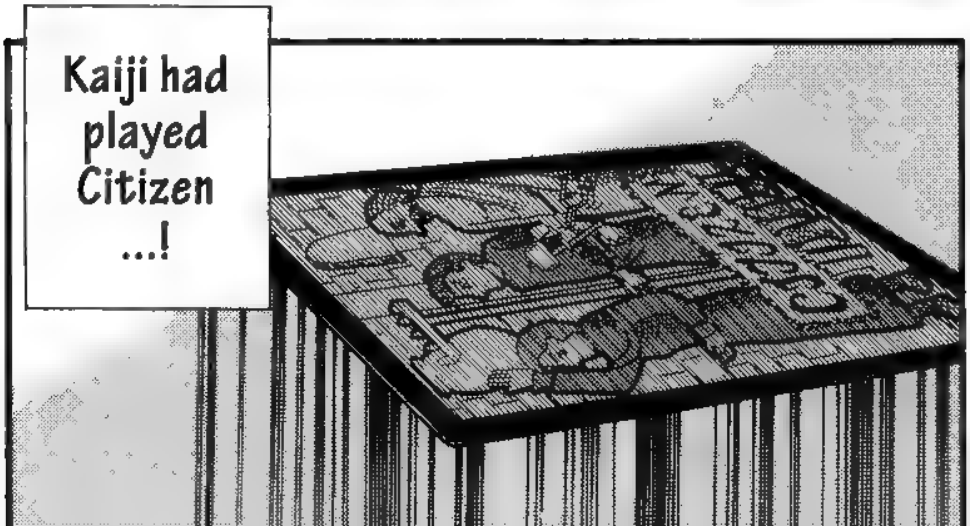
...the more his fear gets the better of him!

The more he thinks about this...
...the better it is for me.


...and the more he thinks ...
But no, he's out of his element...

Tonegawa:
He'll yield to the temptation of safety ...!
He might hesitate at first...
...but in the end he's bound to avoid the confrontation.
Four minutes ...
...after he had begun to think...
...he finally made his decision!
Set ...!
Both cards had been thrown ...!





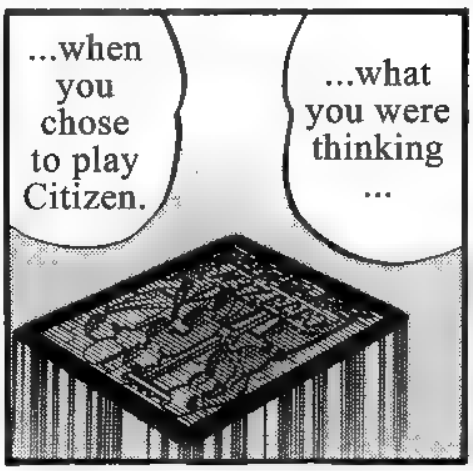
Play...!

ざわ…
ざわ…
……
ざわ…
ざわ…
Hmph …
Well …!
It's a draw …!
It's Citizen …! I know it…!

Huh
!?

Kaiji-kun ...
: Hehehe

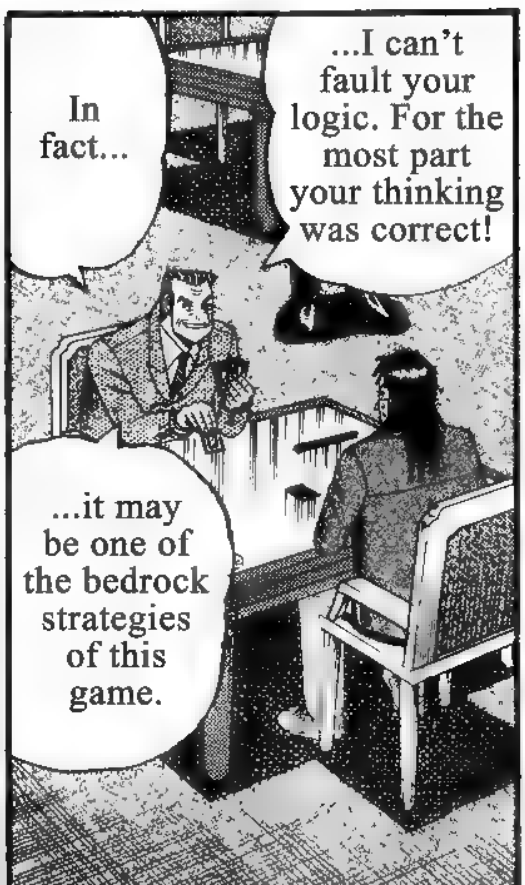
Indeed...


...when you chose to play Citizen.
...what you were thinking ...

I know exactly ...
The truth is I know ...

Unfortunately ...
.....

...such a strategy is ultimately the most short-sighted...


In fact...
...I can't fault your logic. For the most part your thinking was correct!
...it may be one of the bedrock strategies of this game.

...
for
in
gambling
there
are
no
safe
bets!

Tonegawa had played Emperor in the second trick ...!

It was Tonegawa's win...!
EMPEROR
CITIZEN
End of Chapter 108

His win ...!
Chapter 109: Bloodshed
His win...!
His win...!

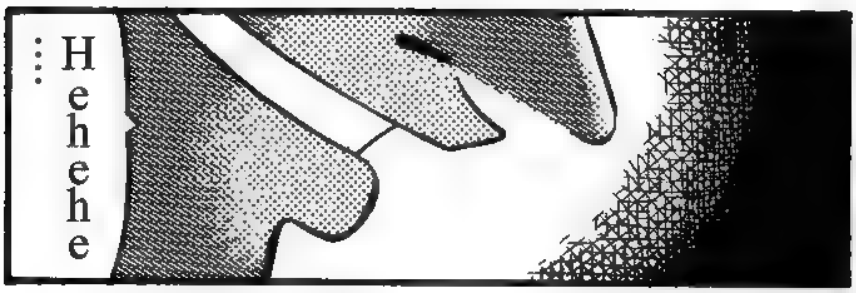
It was Tonegawa's win...!
Ngh ...!

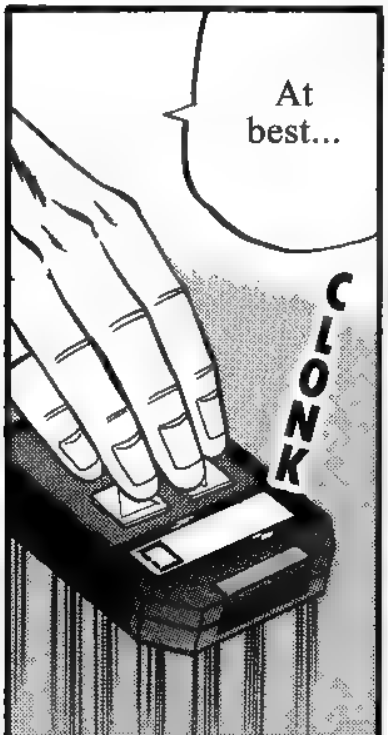
Unbelievable ...!
How could he play Emperor ...!?
Impossible...
It was unthinkable ...!
Why ...!?
Hehehe ...
Now then ...
GO ...!
BEEP

ERs
38

Aiieee
!
WHRRRRRRRR...
WHHHRR...
WHHHRR...

Auuggghhh...!


Hehehe


At best...
CLONK

...but in Emperor there is no guaranteed strategy for winning.
It goes without saying ...

Nevertheless ...
...over long years of experience.
It's something which you accumulate ...
...that is hardly the kind of technique you can pick up in the moment.
Of course ...
...you might raise the odds.
...they convince themselves they have...
In fact, more often than not...
...beginners tend to believe this is something which they can grasp straight out of the gate.
...for all to see!
...full of confidence ...
...and eagerly set sail...
Hehehe ...
.....

Even if the idea is unimpressive ...
...usually they are convinced it is genius.
...they themselves feel inspired.
When a person hits upon an idea for themselves ...
You see ...
...that confidence is just a matter of pretention.
Naturally ...
...before stopping to scrutinize the idea!
They get carried away...
To always remain unsure ...
...is to always question yourself...
...the most important attitude to adopt ...
If you want to survive in gambling ...
...to show their resolve!
Overly quick ...
Yet beginners are always overly quick to discard that doubt.

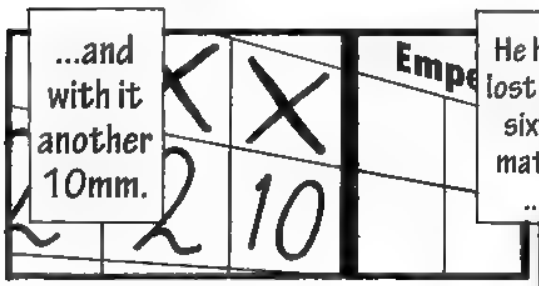
...can't withstand the uncertainty ...
...and the discomfort of not knowing whether they will win or lose.
: Beginners
They are too quick to force the confrontation.
...then it's just too bad."
Often you'll hear them say that, "If this doesn't work...
Even if...
...ending that situation as quickly as possible.
They're convinced they are best off ...
They can't allow that uncertainty to continue.
Hehehe ...
.....
...that situation should end in failure!
That is the hallmark of a beginner ...!

All your thinking only led you...
... from the wrong direction.
You've been approaching this game ...
... Kaiji-kun.
And that applies to you as well...
In a game of psychological warfare like Emperor...
Reason isn't enough.
To mere theory.
...to simple reason.
You can find it writhing atop that base of reason...
The truly vital part still lies ahead...
It is established before the battle is even joined.
...reason is the shared arena.
⋮ However
It is our emotions ...!

In fact ...
That is no strategy for winning...
You did not account for emotion...
You, Kaiji-kun, were content to stop at "reason."
In fact ...
You made it almost too easy ...
.....
...from my point of view, I could practically gauge your every emotion.
...by pretending to hesitate.
...that you were expecting ...
...was managing to fake the reaction...
...I would say that the hardest part...
Hehehe ...
.....
...which took any effort on my part.
That was the only bit ...

Hehehehe
...
.....

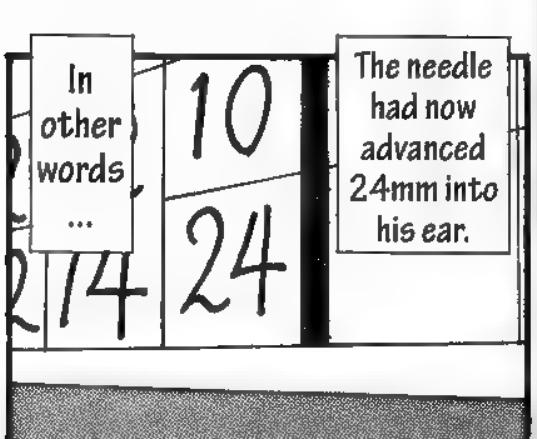
.....


...and with it another 10mm.

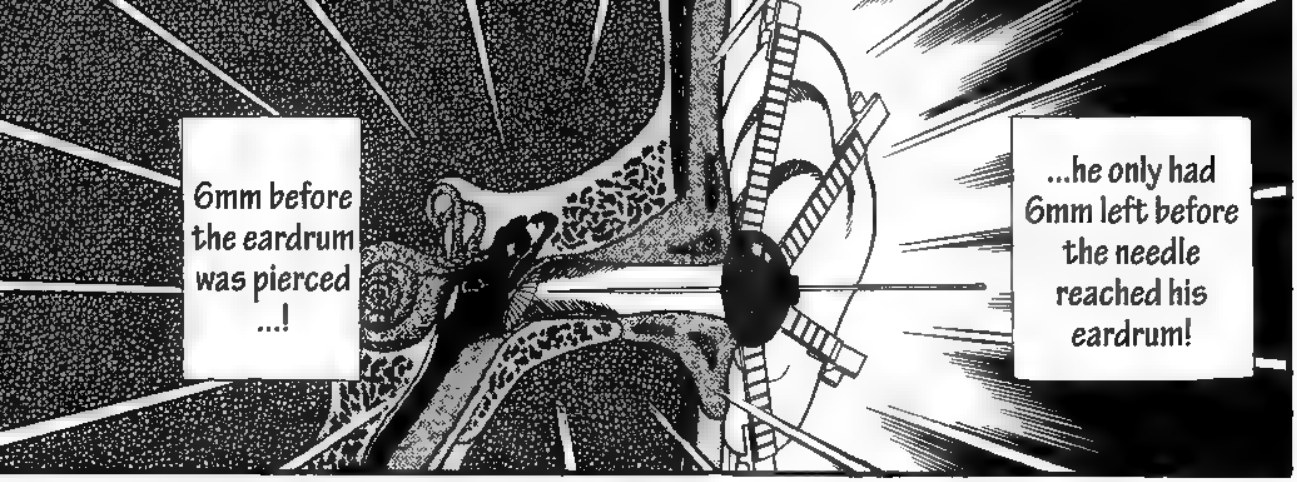
He had lost the sixth match ...

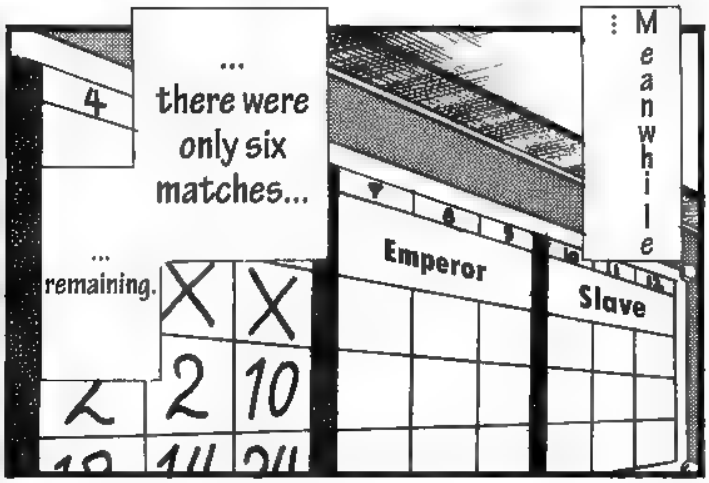
Kaiji ...

.....

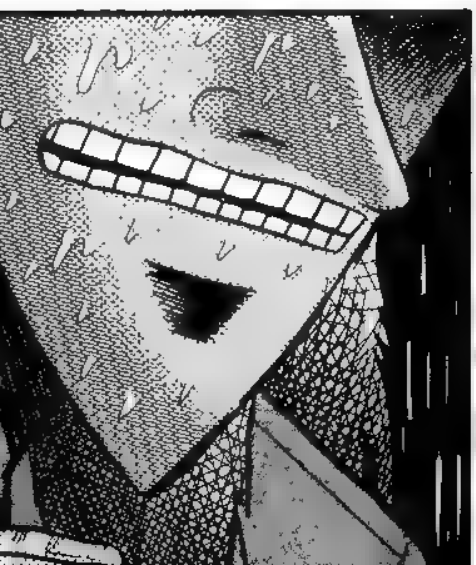

In other words ...

The needle had now advanced 24mm into his ear.


6mm before the eardrum was pierced ...!
...he only had 6mm left before the needle reached his eardrum!


...
there were only six matches...
...
remaining.
4
X X
2 10
Emperor
Slave
Meanwhile

Slave
What is your next bet...?
Slave
Kaiji-sama...

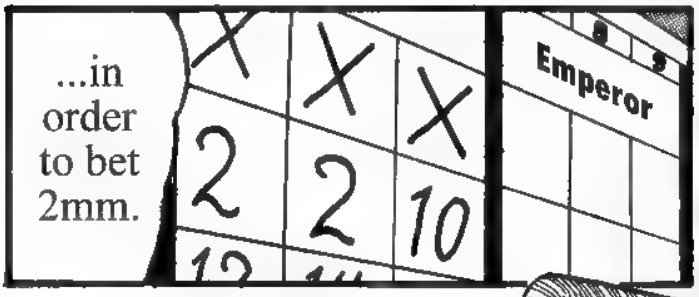


Six matches ...!

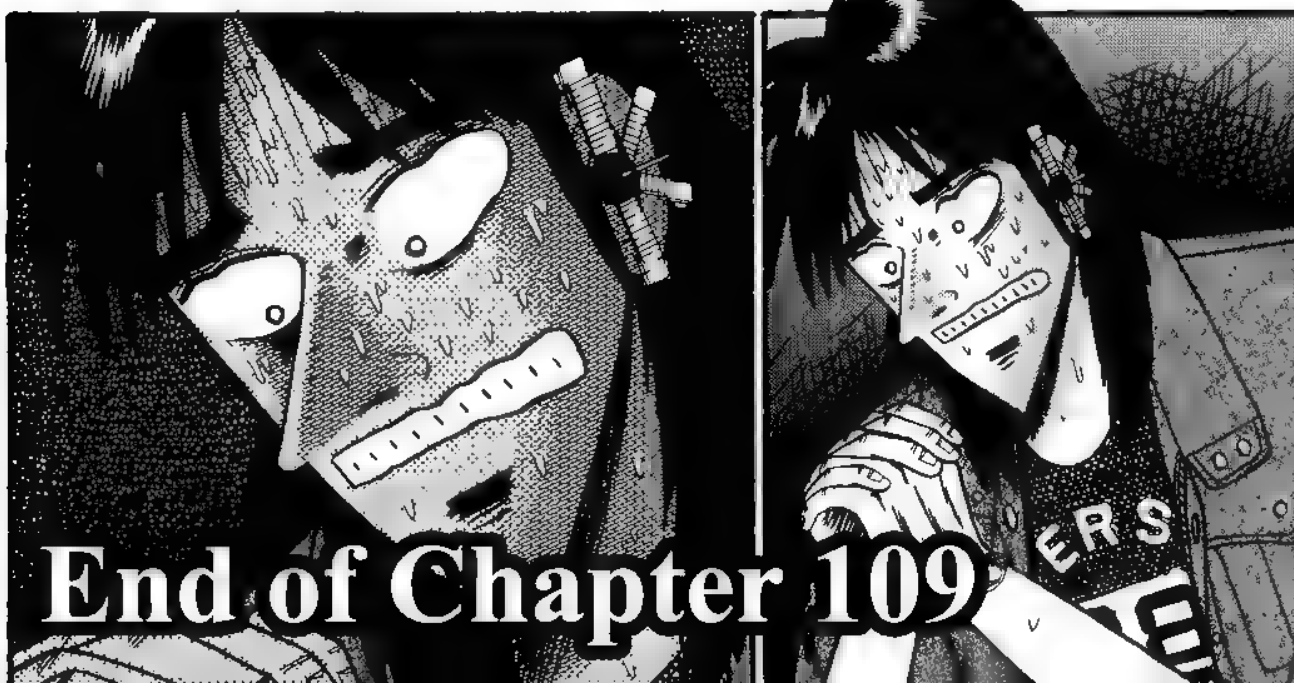
.....
Kaiji-sama ...
.....
1mm ...
One millimeter ...!
What happened ...!?
Heh ...!?

...you shot down all our good advice...
Just a moment ago...

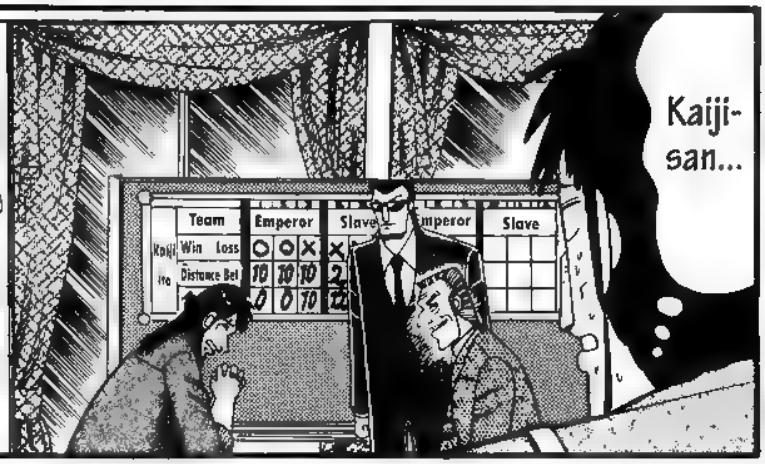
...was gonna be 2mm?
I thought your lowest bet...


...in order to bet 2mm.
X X X
2 2 10
Emperor

...Kaiji-kun.
Don't tell me you're giving up...

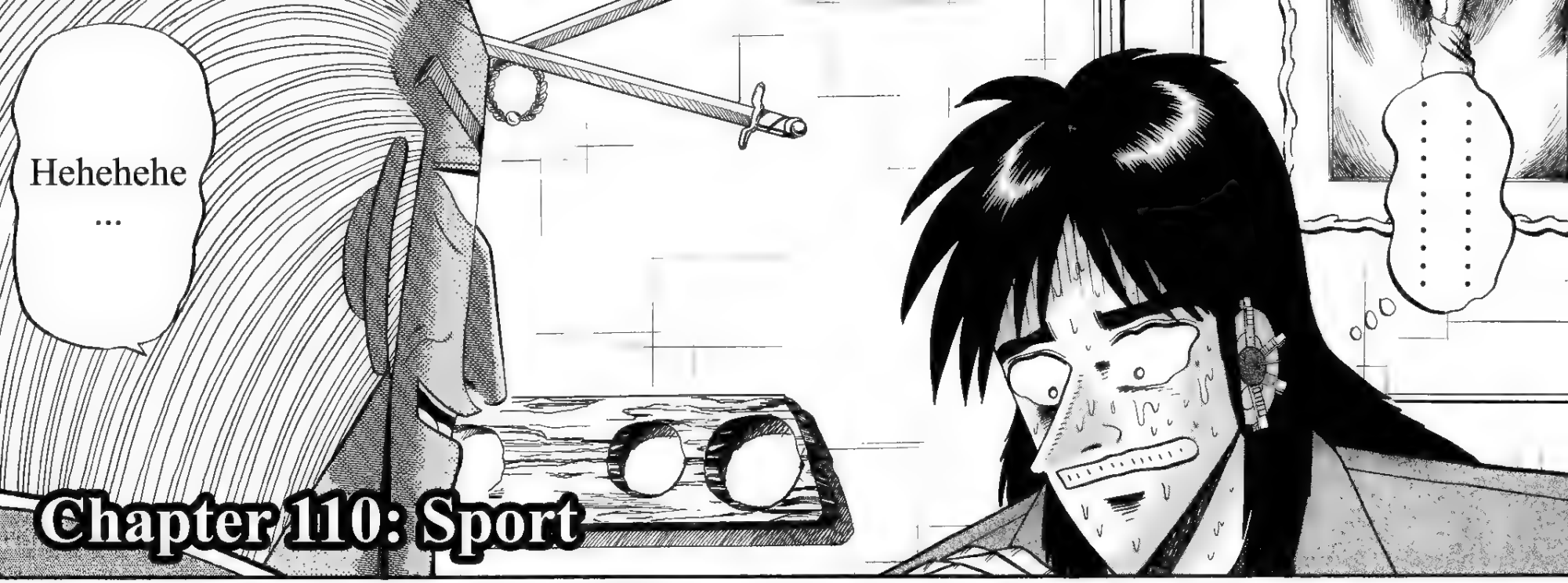

End of Chapter 109

ざわ…
ざわ…

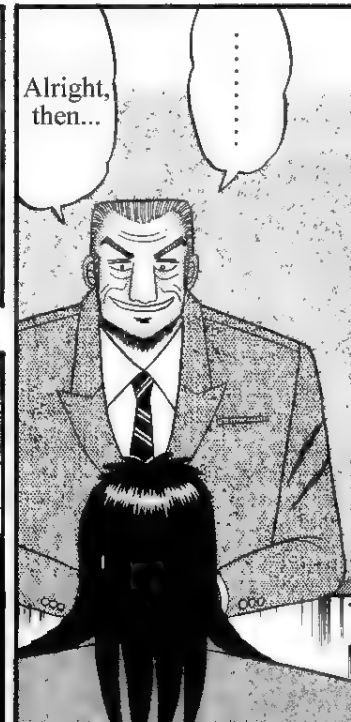

Kaiji-san...
Team
Emperor
Slave
Win Loss
Distance Bet

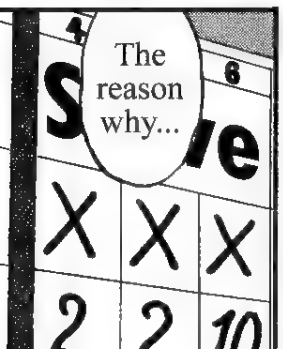
ざわ…
……

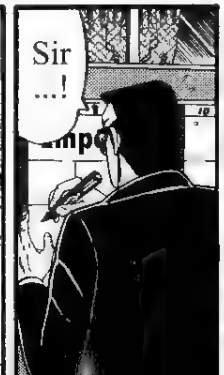
Hmph
…



Chapter 110: Sport







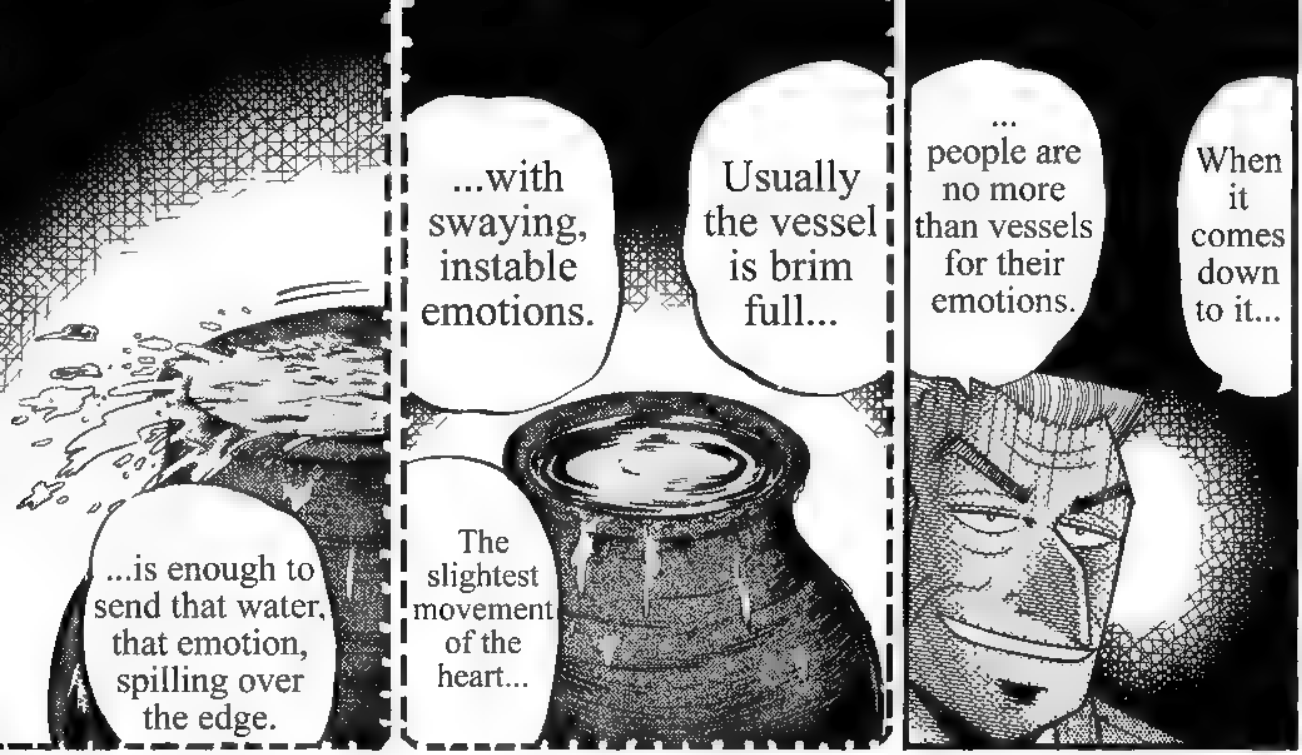
...and I won.
... you lost ...
Hehehe ...
Huh ...?
.....
But there you are wrong.
... is to read people, to see into their psychology.
...you may believe that the point of Emperor ...
Kaiji-kun...

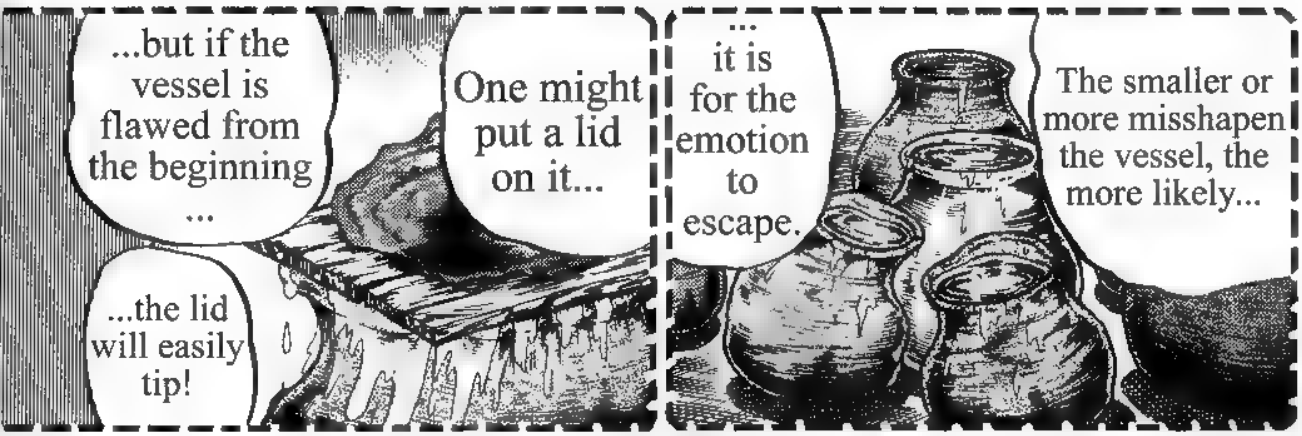
...there is a much clearer path to victory.
The truth is...
One ...
.....
...of perception
...direct and straightforwardly
The ability to observe people...
The ability to see whether your opponent is shaken or not...
...the most important ability...
...or the Slave's side throws Slave...
...when the Emperor's side throws Emperor...
In that moment ...
It is this ability which is most important.
...the trembling of your opponent's mind.
...is the ability to perceive ...

I can tell from your face...
Hehehe ...
.....
...it is not as difficult as it seem.
Regardless ...
With enough experience ...
... the rest would be easy.
...that you don't believe me. After all, if one could do that...
...through their actions, their movements and their physiology!
Response which people show when they are afraid...
There are patterns ...
...anyone can learn.
For instance ...
.....

...slightly more than usual.
...you bend forward ...
...when you throw one of the key cards...
In your case, Kaiji-kun...
... after you throw as well.
You give yourself away...
Hehehe ...
Huh ...?
...your eyebrows ...your shoulders ...your elbows...
...the way you hold your neck...the position of your mouth ...
Essentially ...
...the way you hold your cards...
The movement of your eyes...

Confessing to me without saying a word...!
...you are confessing!
Hehehe ...
Ahh ...!
Kaiji-kun...
.....
It's impossible for you to hide it...!
You can't help it...


...is enough to send that water, that emotion, spilling over the edge.
The slightest movement of the heart...
...with swaying, instable emotions.
Usually the vessel is brim full...
...
people are no more than vessels for their emotions.
When it comes down to it...

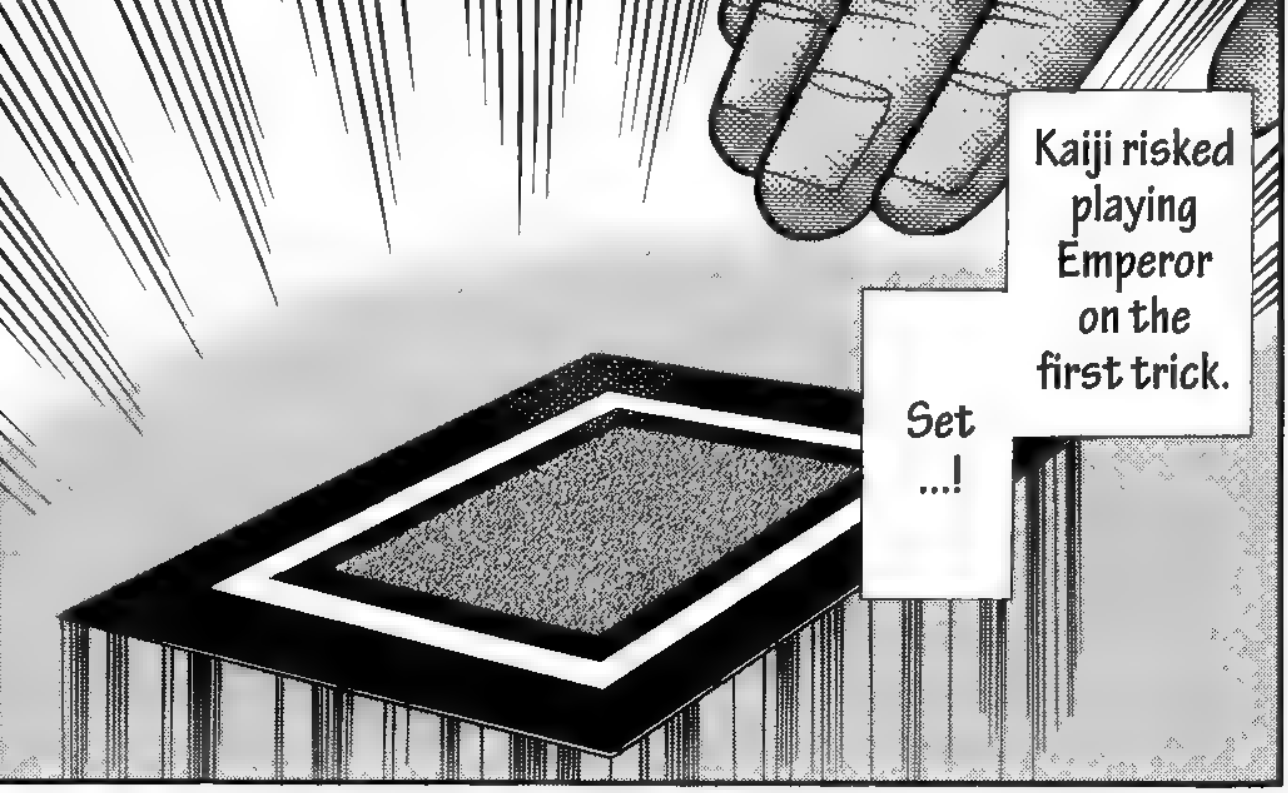

...but if the vessel is flawed from the beginning ...
...the lid will easily tip!
One might put a lid on it...
...
it is for the emotion to escape.
The smaller or more misshapen the vessel, the more likely...

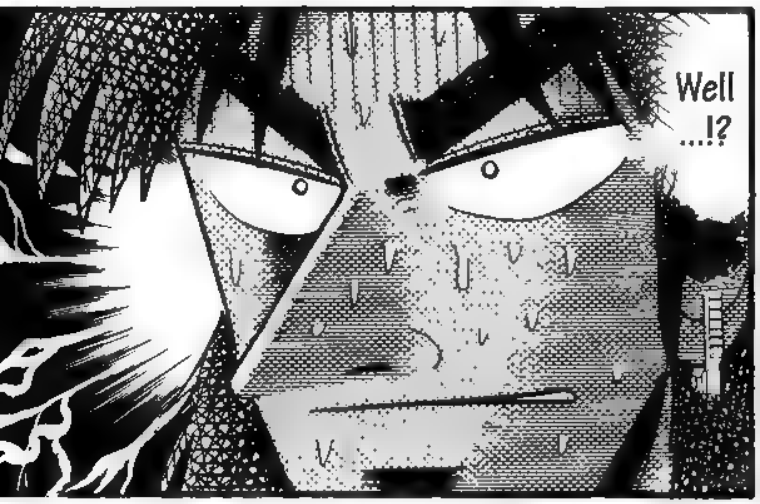
There is a problem with your vessel...
...and with the way you close your lid!
...I don't believe that you can, Kaiji-kun.
...in the course of a single day.
At least ...
...one cannot learn to hide their emotions ..
In the end ...
There is no way to stop those waters from escaping...!

But such a trick is beyond your means. Even if...
It requires a special kind of lid ...
...you were to conceive of it, it would take time for you to master it!
You need to evaporate them, so that they escape as steam...
Simply pushing your emotions back down is useless...
Hehehe ...
...it is impossible for you to win!
... Kaiji-kun...
So you see...

Ngh ...!
No way ...!
That can't be...!
If that's true...
...then every time I played first...
...would be disaster!
He'd be able to see through every card...!
He's gotta be kidding ...!
It's impossible ...!
It can't be...!

He wants me to think his powers of perception are absolute ...
It's strategy ...!
This is just his way of bluffing ...!
...to throwing the Emperor only when I follow in the second or fourth round.
...then that limits me...
If I believe what he says...
He's trying to fence me in...
...the advantage I have on the Emperor's side!
...that severely limits...
Either way...
Or possibly the fifth...
The seventh match ...!
Man ...!

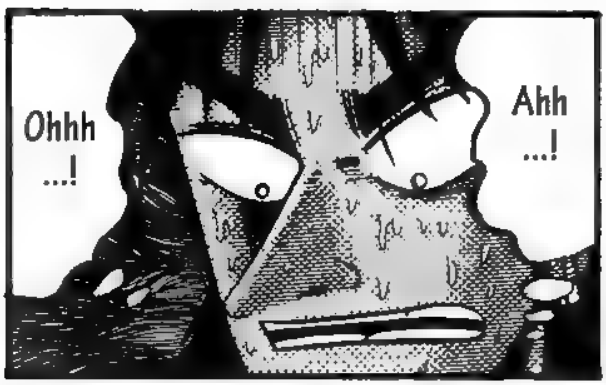

Kaiji risked playing Emperor on the first trick.
Set ...!


Well ...!?

...without hesitation.
His first card ...
... Tonegawa responded ...

However ...
Did you see through that...!? Did you...!?

He had seen through Kaiji...!
...was Slave!

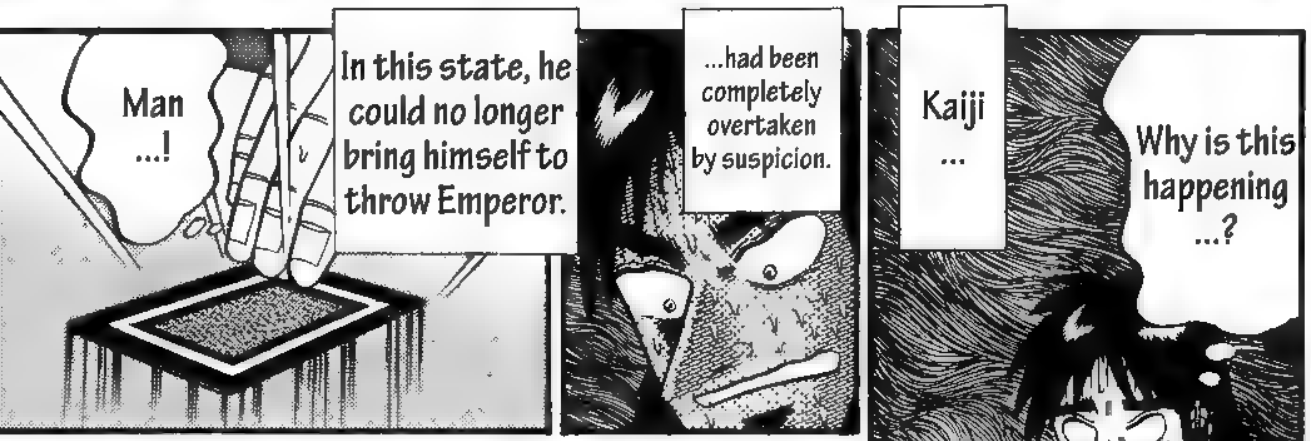

Ohhh ...!
Ahh ...!

Hehehe ...
Ngh ...!

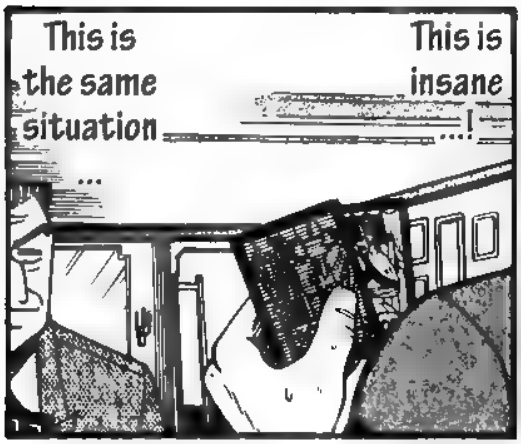
Even on the Emperor's side he couldn't win...
Kaiji.
Emperor
X
1

Emperor
Slave
in / Loss
ance Bet
10 10 10
2 2 10
12 14 24
1
25
Five losses in a row ...!

It can't be...!
No way ...!
Once again Kaiji had wagered 1mm...
AHH
AHH
The eighth match.
AHH

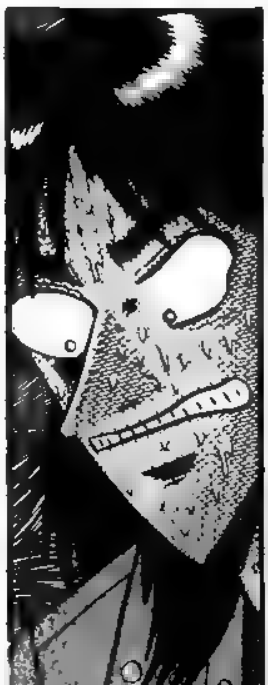

Man ...!
In this state, he could no longer bring himself to throw Emperor.
...had been completely overtaken by suspicion.
Kaiji ...
Why is this happening ...?

...and then the third...
...ended with Citizen, for a draw.
The first trick, the second...

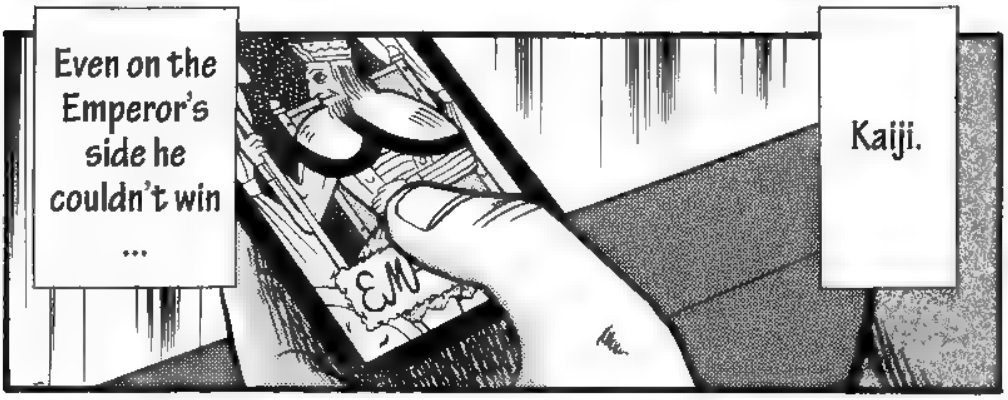


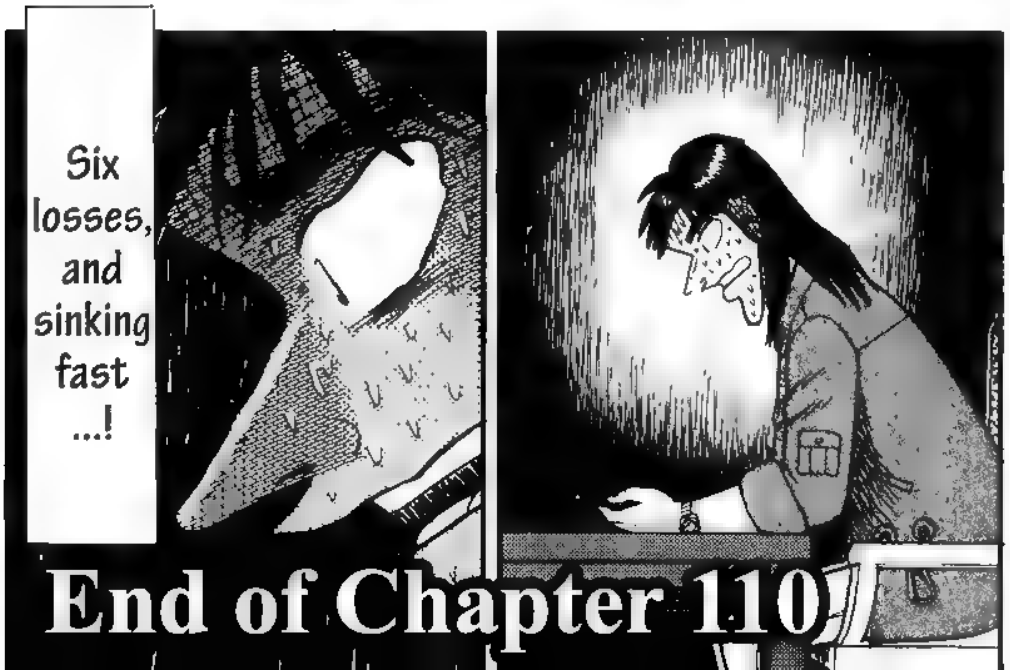
Kaiji was being cornered ...!

Man ...!



...so did Tonegawa!
The fourth round was another draw.
Hehehe ...
...and Tonegawa's was the Slave...
...meaning that the fifth trick ...
Kaiji's final card was the Emperor...



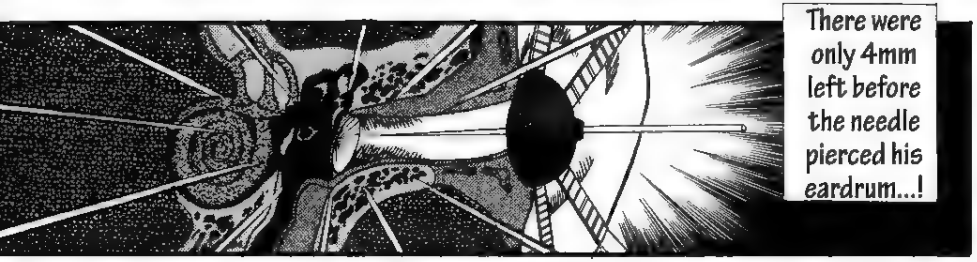


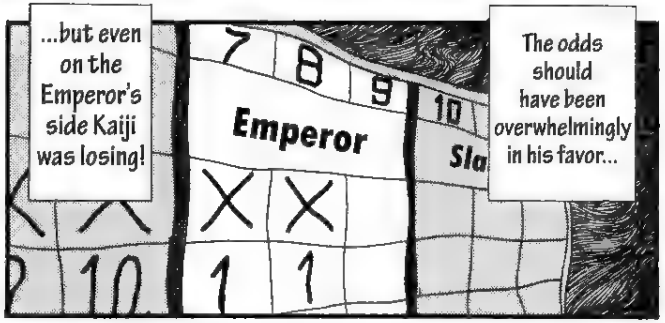
...had already been decided.

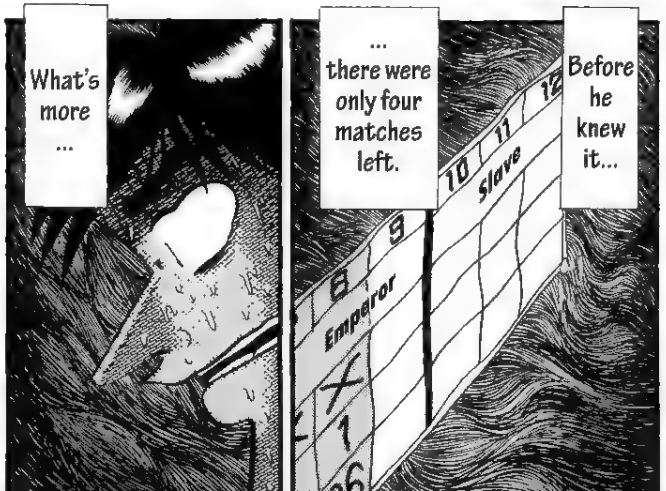
Chapter 111: Quagmire

Kaiji Ito	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Team	Emperor			Slave			Emperor			Slave		
Win / Loss	O	O	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Distance Bet	10	10	10	2	2	10	1	1				
Total Distance	0	0	10	12	14	24	25	26				

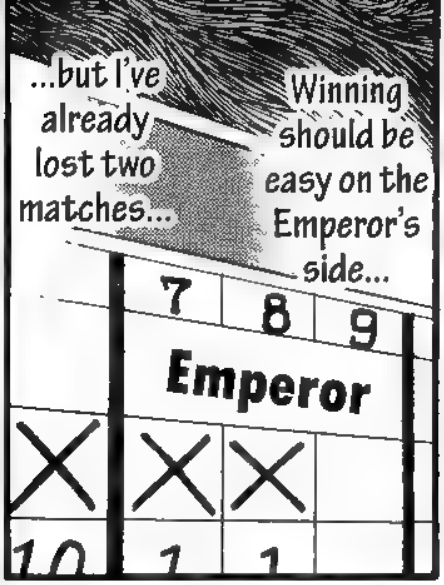
Six losses in a row!!!





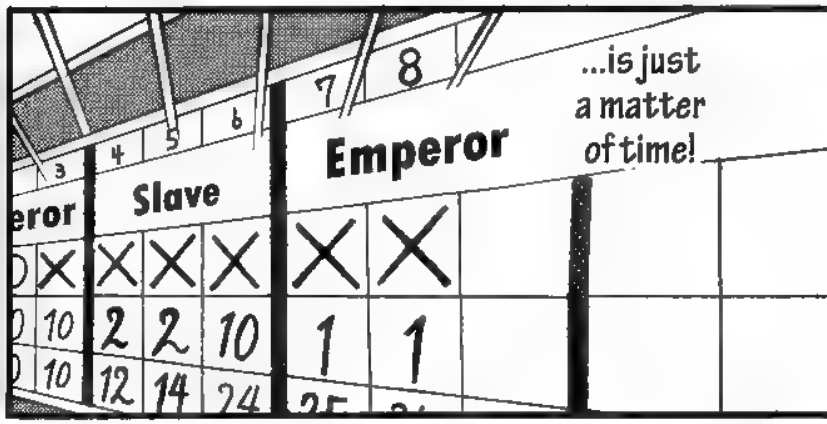


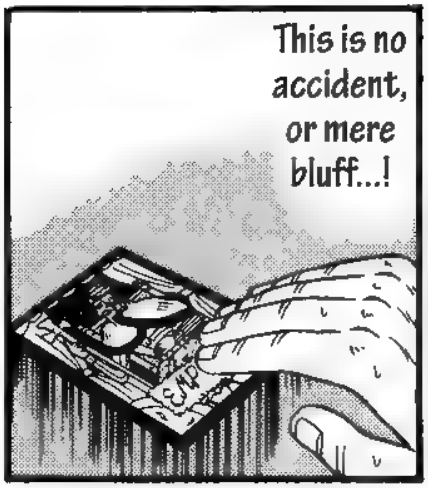
The third loss...


...but I've already lost two matches...
Winning should be easy on the Emperor's side...
7 8 9
Emperor

Why can't I win...!?

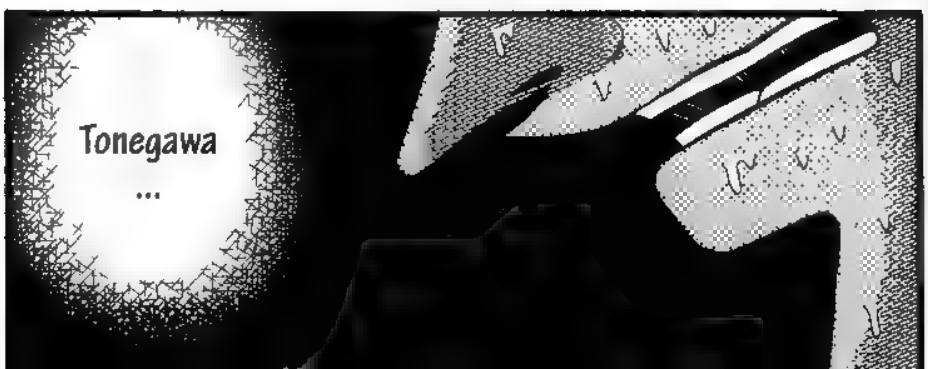
SOB
SOB
SOB

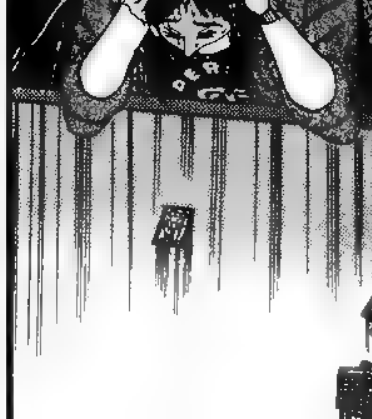

...is just a matter of time!
Emperor
Slave
10 2 2 10
10 12 14 24
1 1


This is no accident, or mere bluff...!

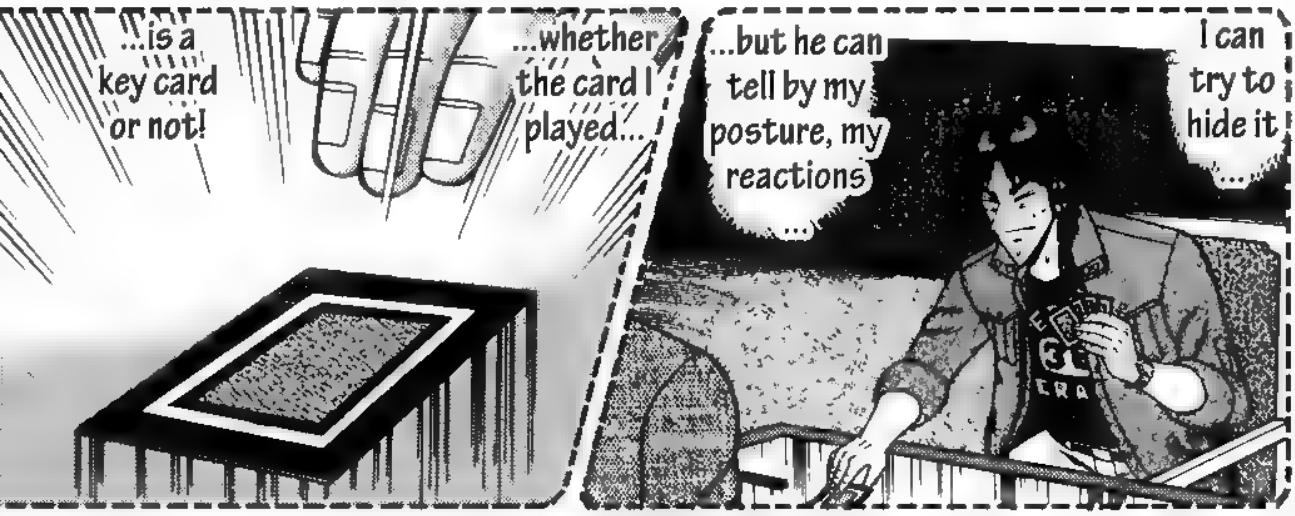
...denying it anymore.
There's no use...

It's no good...!


Tonegawa
...

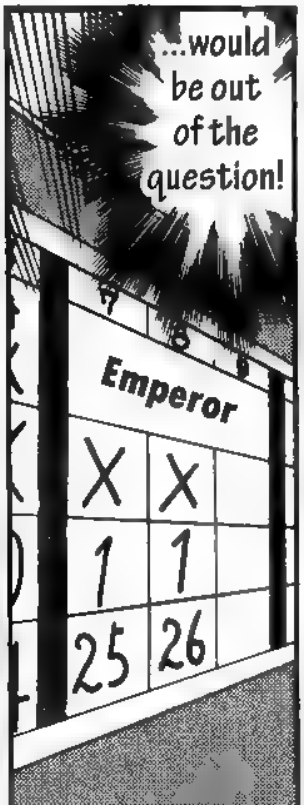


...really can see!


...is a key card or not!
...whether the card I played...
...but he can tell by my posture, my reactions ...
I can try to hide it ...

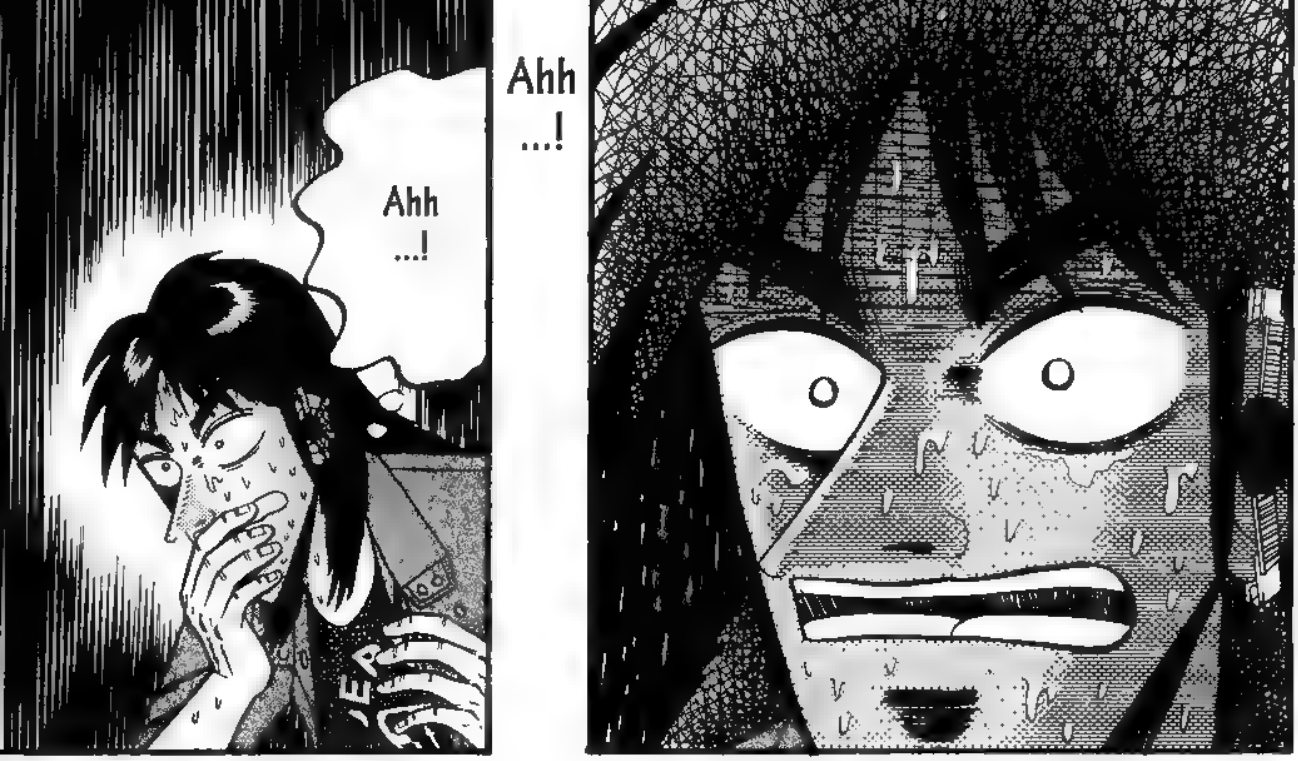
He must have ...

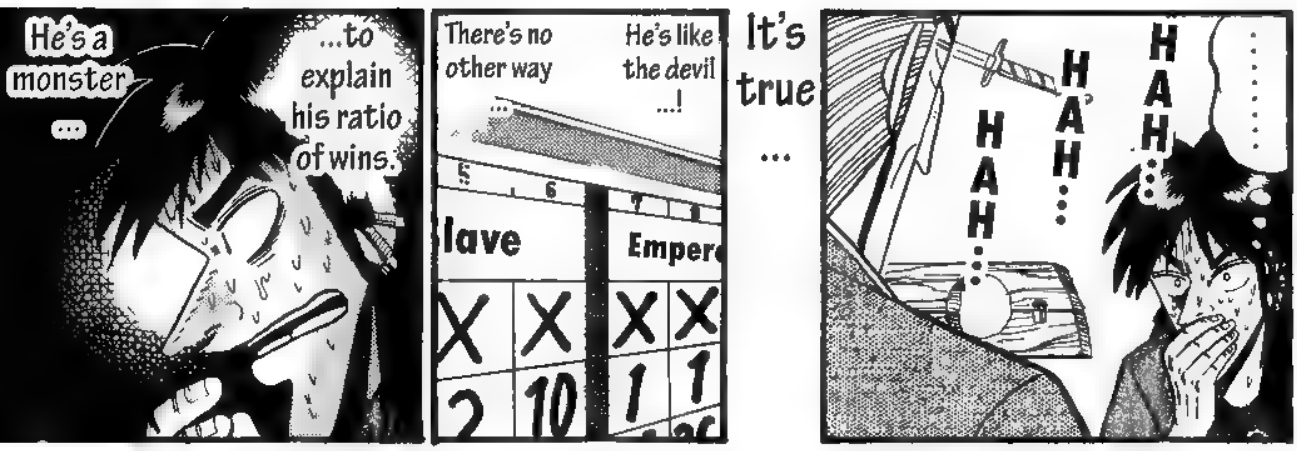
...some superhuman power of perception!


...would be out of the question!
Emperor
X X
1 1
25 26

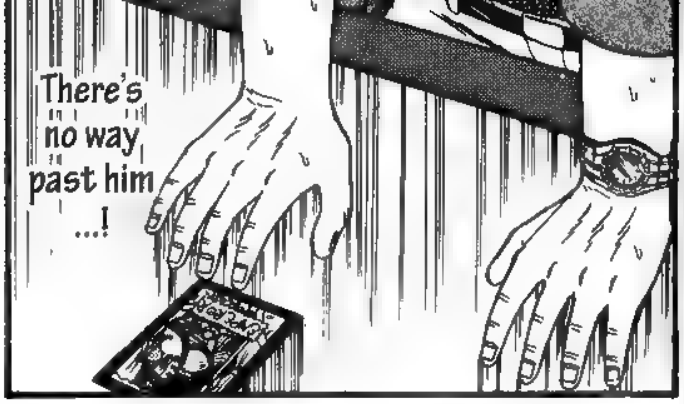
If that wasn't the case, than three straight wins...
...when the odds are 1/5 ...
EMPERO

The devil's eyes ...!


Ahh ...!
Ahh ...!

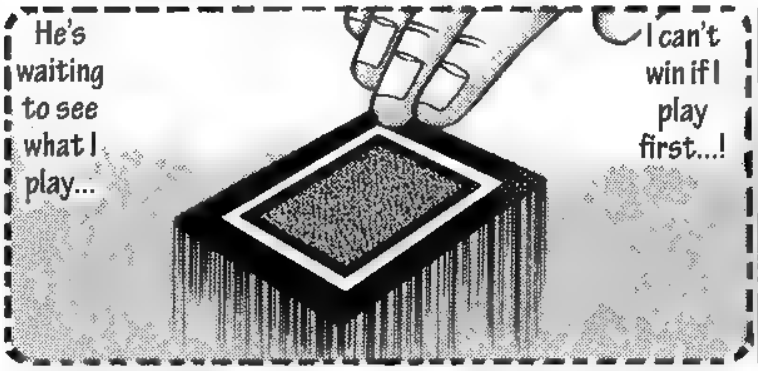

He's a monster ...
...to explain his ratio of wins.
There's no other way
He's like the devil ...!
lave
Empere
X X
X X
2 10
1 1
It's true ...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
.....

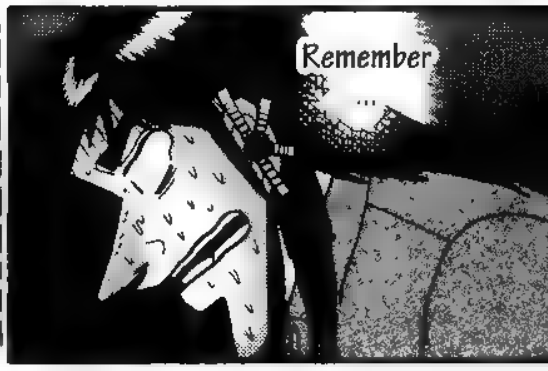
All of my thoughts ...!
He can see it all...
He can see right through me...!
It's hopeless ...!
A demon ...!
... into the mind!
A prodigal beast with the power to see...

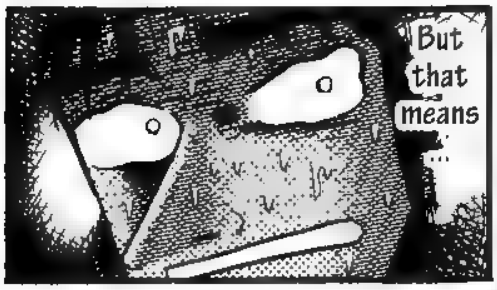

There's no way past him ...!

I just can't win...!

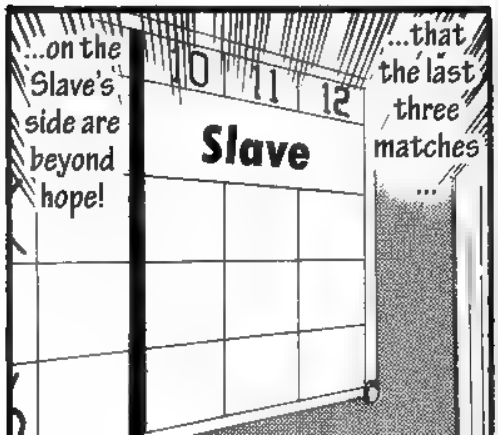
.....
.....

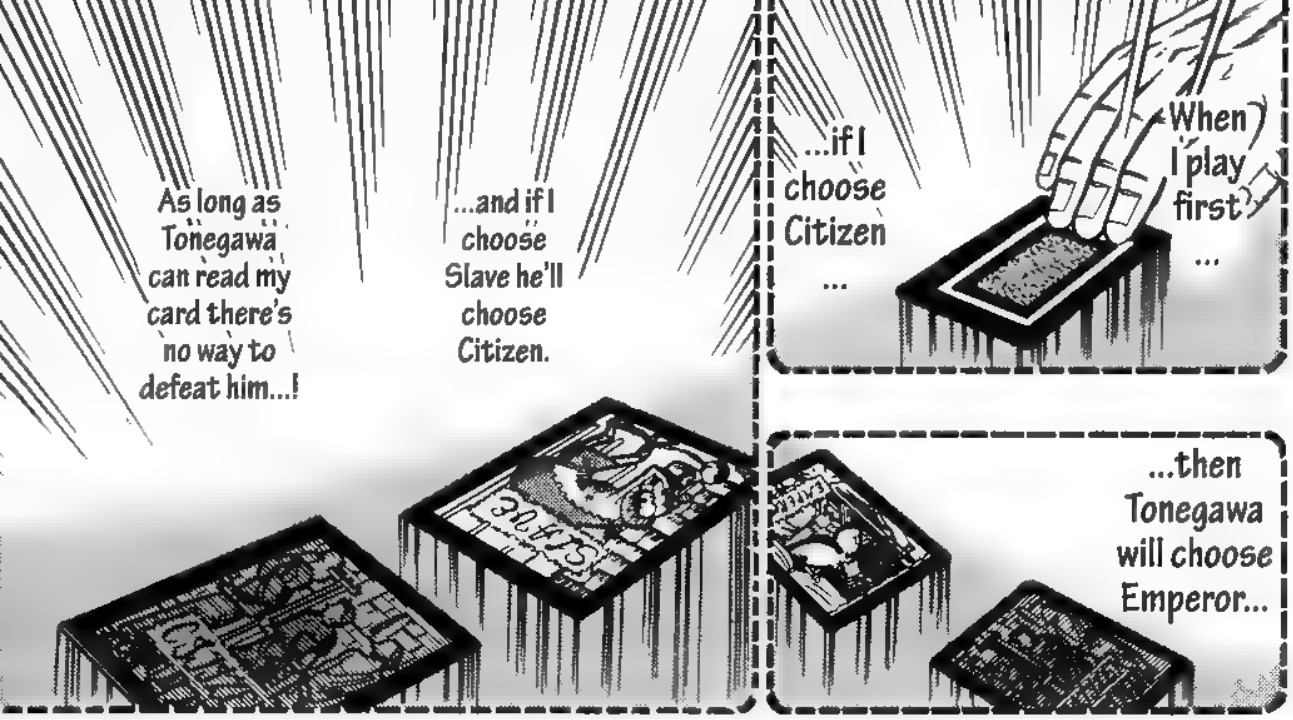

He's waiting to see what I play...
I can't win if I play first...!

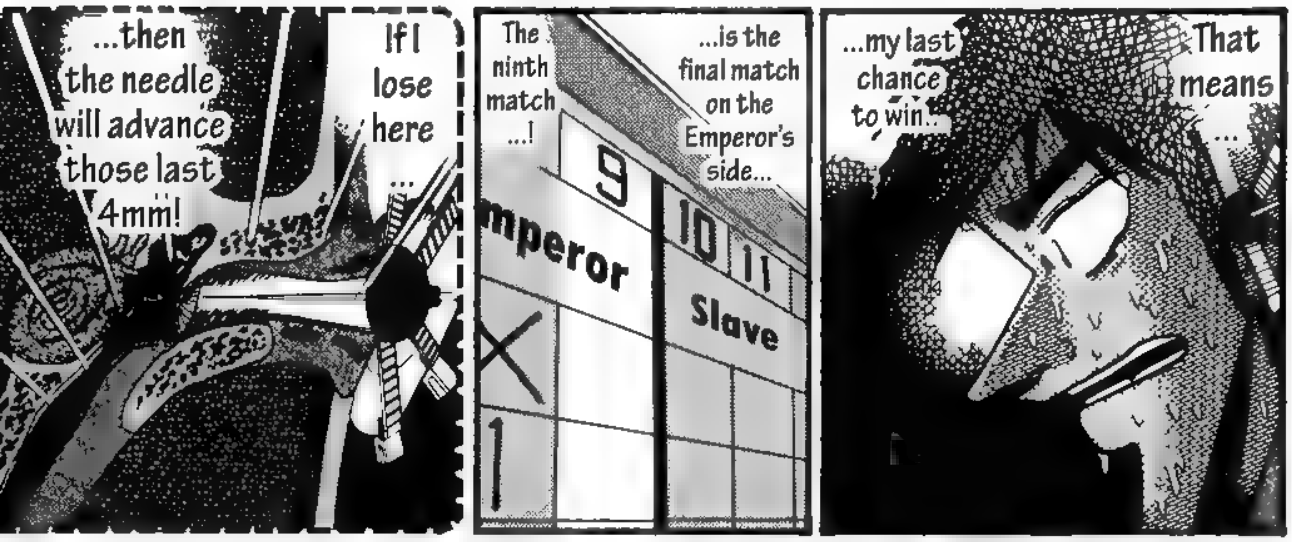

Remember ...

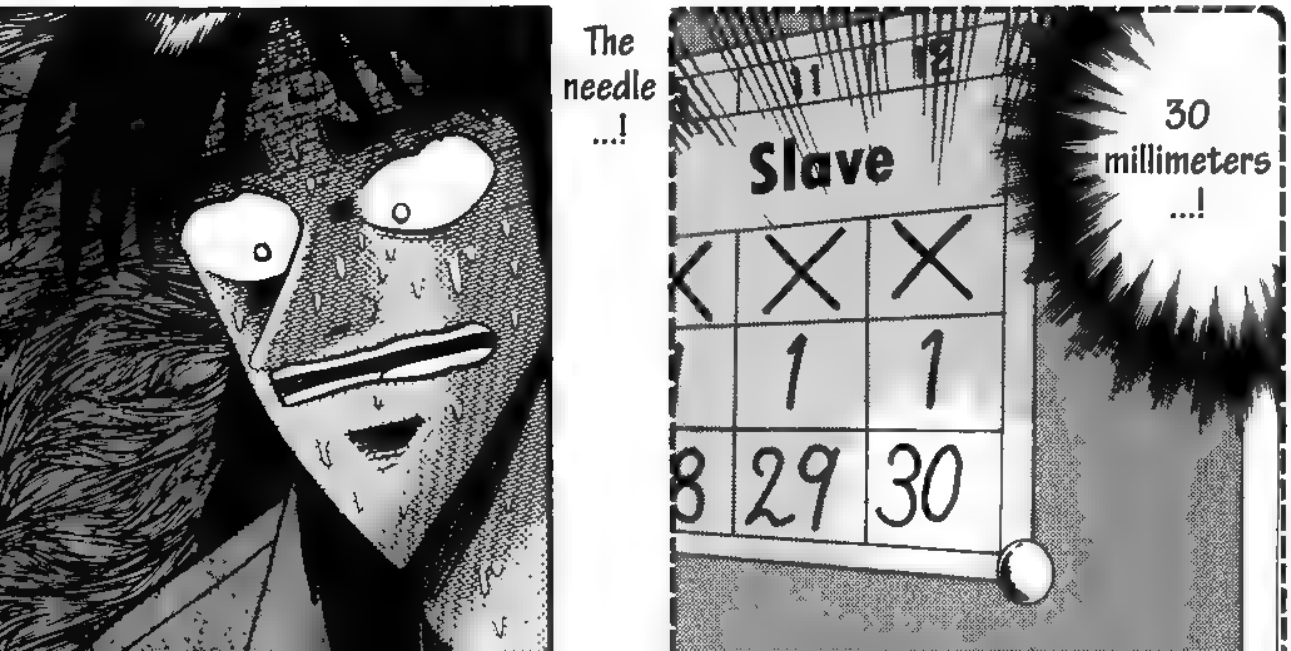

But that means ...

I can't play first...!
...before he makes his own move.

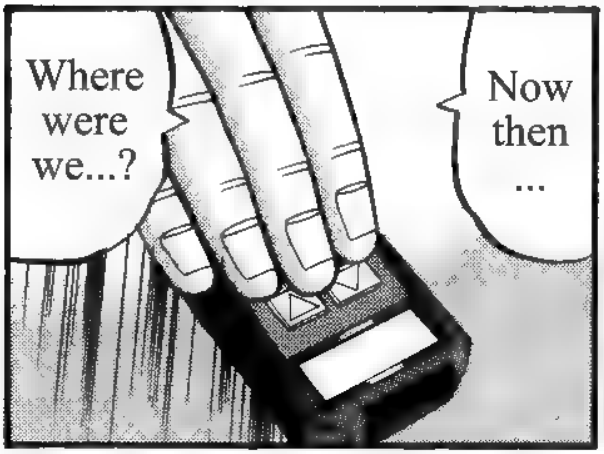

...on the Slave's side are beyond hope!
10
11
12
Slave
...that the last three matches ...


When I play first ...
...if I choose Citizen ...
...and if I choose Slave he'll choose Citizen.
As long as Tonegawa can read my card there's no way to defeat him...!
...then Tonegawa will choose Emperor...

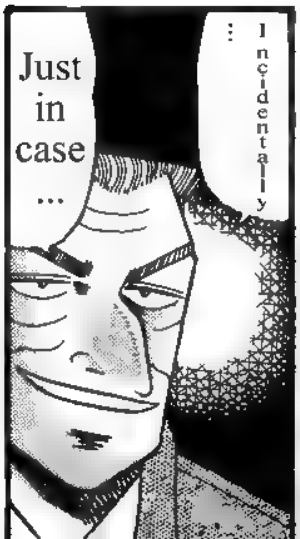

...then the needle will advance those last 4mm!
If I lose here ...
The ninth match ...!
...is the final match on the Emperor's side...
9
10
11
mperor
Slave
1
...my last chance to win...
That means ...


The needle ...!
Slave
1
1
8
29
30
30 millimeters ...!

It will reach my eardrum ...!


Where were we...?
Now then ...

Hehehe ...
Ahh ...!


Just in case ...
Incidentally ...

Hehehe ...
Ahh ...!

Ah ...!
JERS
38

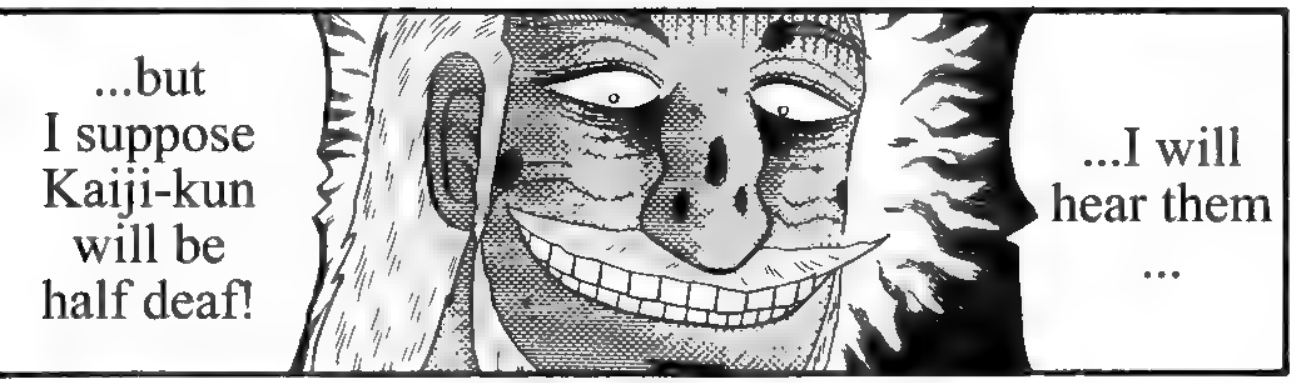
...
that the metal fixtures attached to your ear are of special make.
...I'm afraid I must tell you...
Once they clamp onto something...
...
when things started getting dangerous...
...you were hoping to remove the device ...
And if you should continue to pull on the device...
...and attempt to remove it by force...
...they are impossible to remove!
Without the use of special equipment ...
...they do not let go.
It is as much our right to dispose of it as it is yours.
We will not permit you to do as you please...!
From our point of view, that ear is our hostage.
...you will not be allowed to remove it.
...on this remote control will begin to ring.
...the alarm ...
I'm sorry, but...

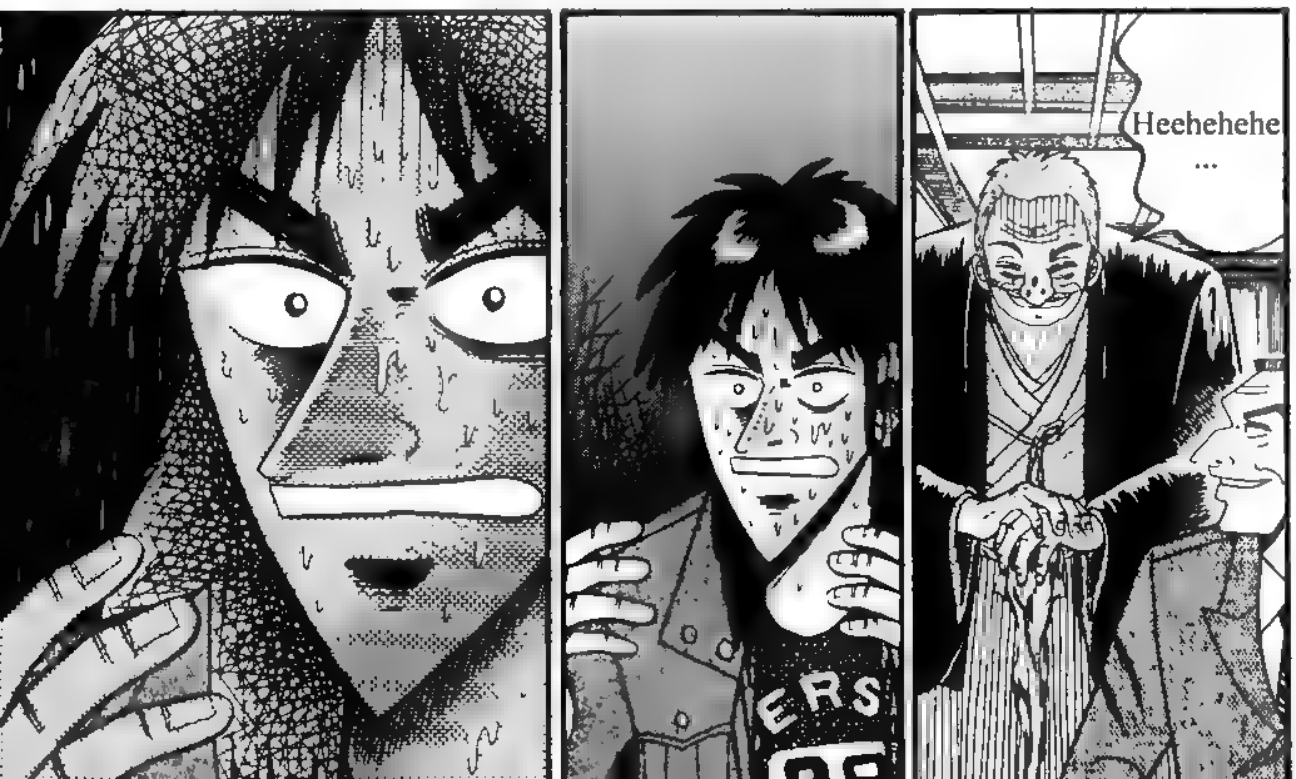
...the match is over your ability to hear...
We are loaning the ear to you for now, but when...
...will be ours for the taking!
WHHRRR...
WHR...
BEEP
ERS
38
ERAM

SCRRCCCHH
Ngh ...!
38
Hehehe ...

Hehehe
...
Hehe
...
.....
You understand, I presume ...
Hehe
...
Hehehe
...
Stay the course.
I understand
If you win here...
This is it...!
... the rest will be decided.

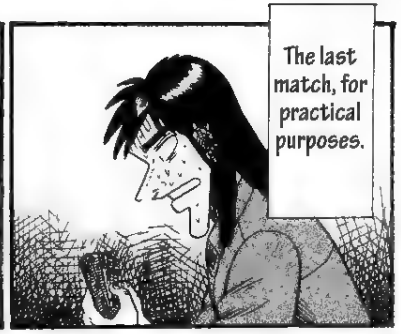
Of course ...
.....
...I truly would like to hear the boy scream.
...I am staying up late for this.
After all...
Since we've gone this far...

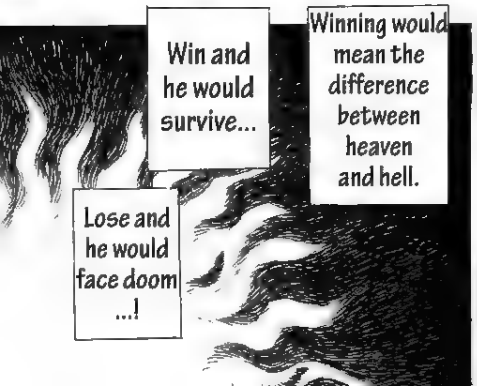

...but I suppose Kaiji-kun will be half deaf!
...I will hear them ...


Heehehehe ...

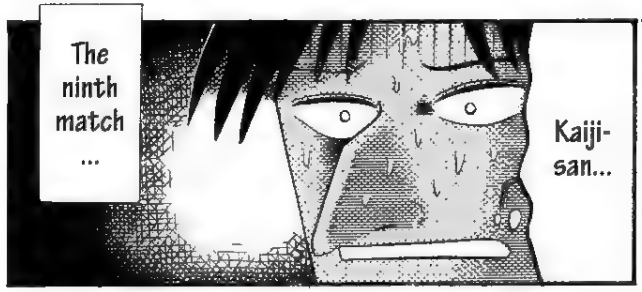
ざわ
ざわ…
ざわ…
Kaiji Ito
Team
Emperor
Slave
Emperor
Slave
Win / Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance

The last match …!
The last match where Kaiji still held a chance of winning.

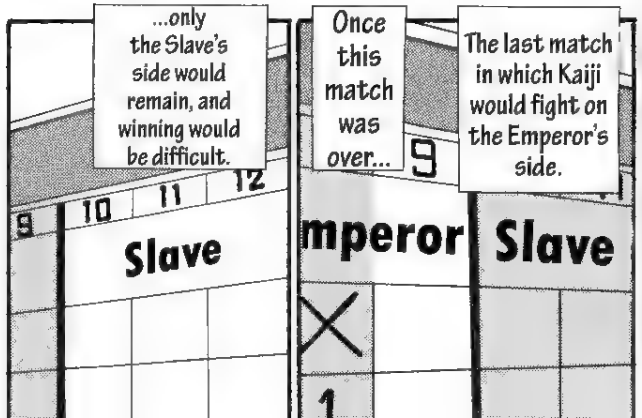

The last match, for practical purposes.


Win and he would survive…
Winning would mean the difference between heaven and hell.
Lose and he would face doom …!

One.
…Kaiji wagered a single millimeter.
Once more …


The ninth match …
Kaiji-san…

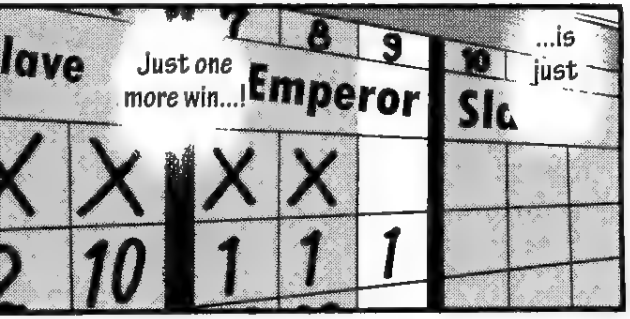
……
ざわ…

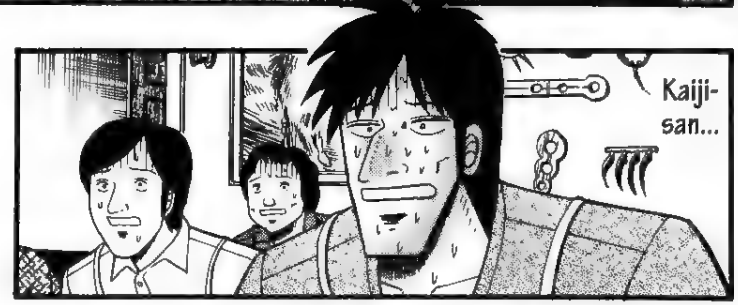

…only the Slave's side would remain, and winning would be difficult.
Once this match was over…
The last match in which Kaiji would fight on the Emperor's side.
Slave
mperor
Slave

End of Chapter 111

My eardrum ...!
... destroyed!
It will be ...

Chapter 112: Chaos





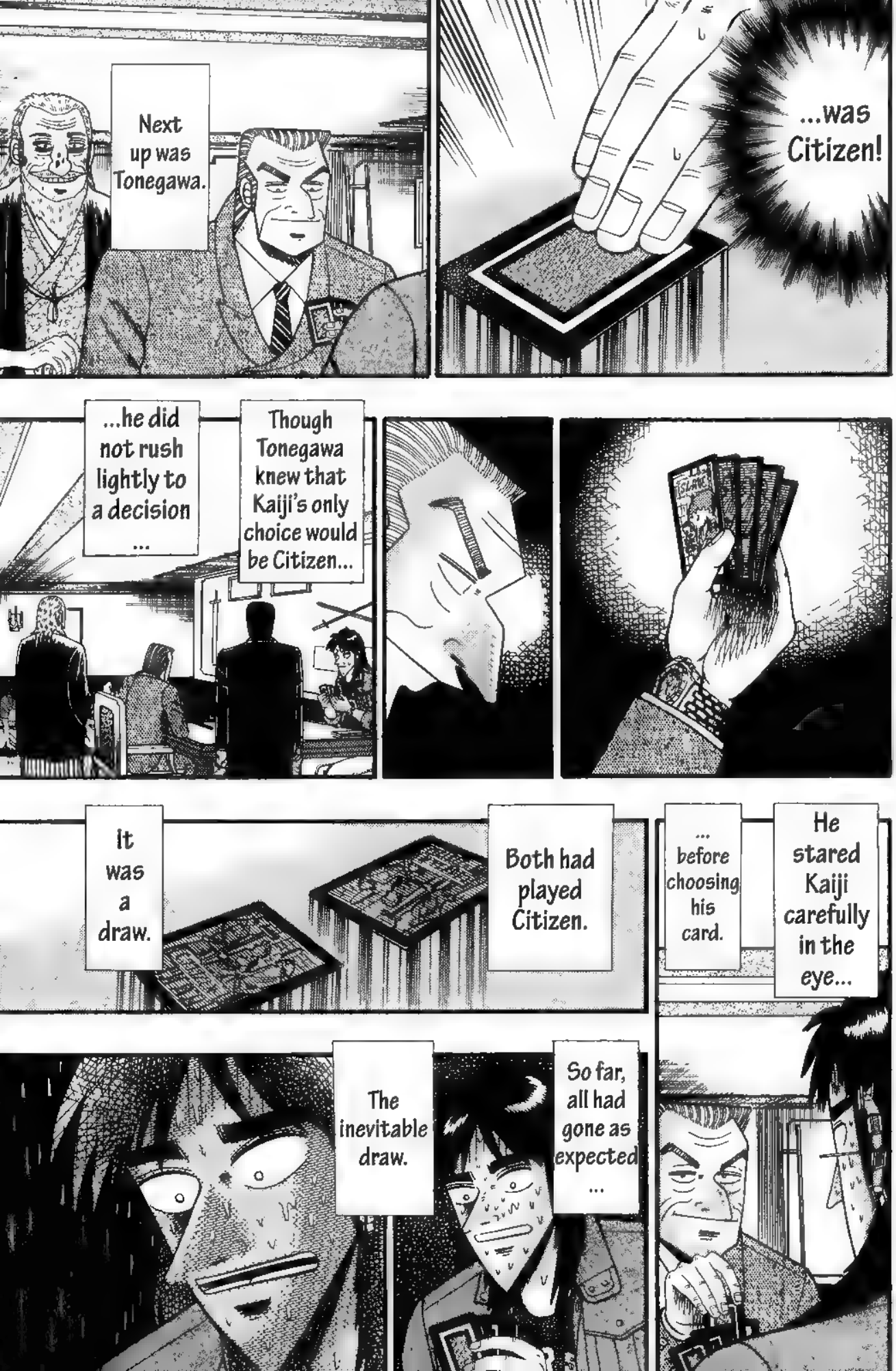
... without losing a thing!

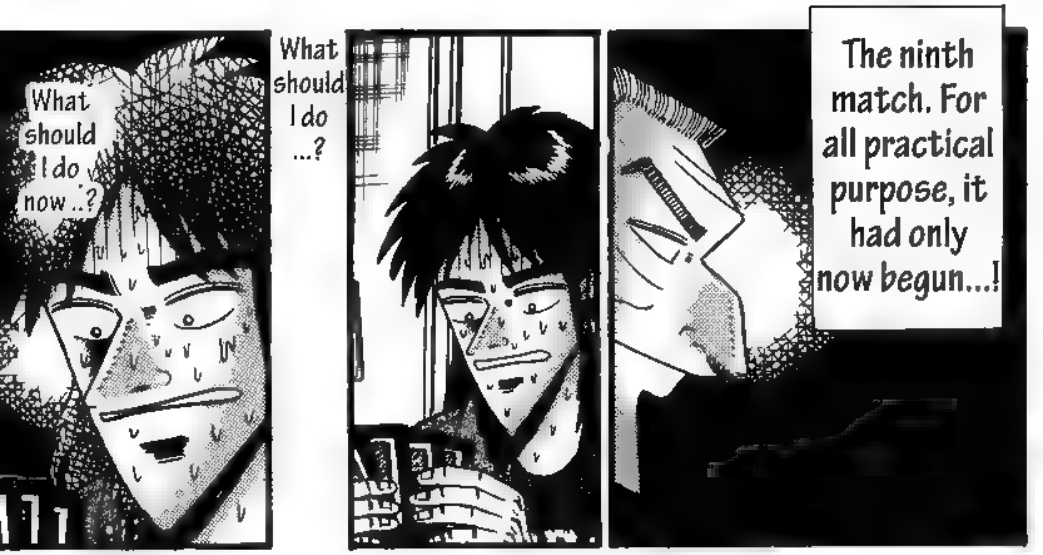
...was Kaiji's lead.
The first trick...

The ninth match.
Slave
Slave
Kaiji-san...

...Kaiji's only choice...
.....

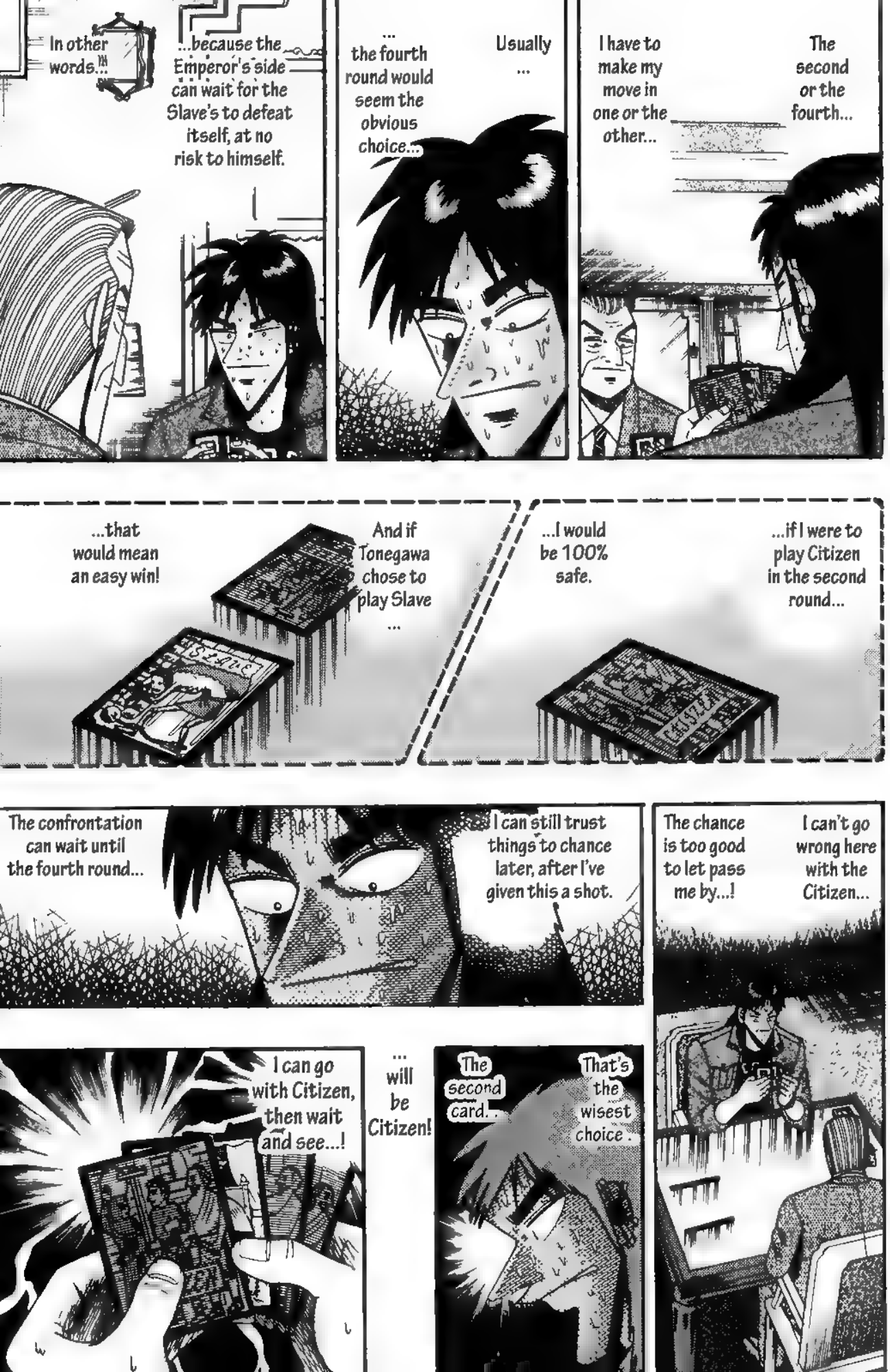
... naturally ...
....which card Kaiji had played by his attitude afterwards...
Since Tonegawa could tell ...


Next up was Tonegawa.
...was Citizen!
...he did not rush lightly to a decision ...
Though Tonegawa knew that Kaiji's only choice would be Citizen...
It was a draw.
Both had played Citizen.
... before choosing his card.
He stared Kaiji carefully in the eye...
The inevitable draw.
So far, all had gone as expected ...



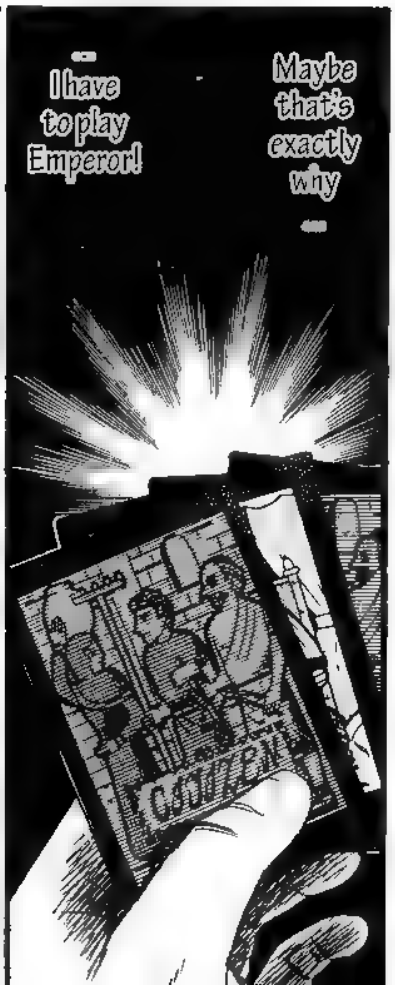
...is either to play my hand in the second round or in the fourth!
That means my only chance...
...is certain!
Only one thing...
I've got no chance of winning if I throw first...

The real match began with the second trick...!


In other words...
...because the Emperor's side can wait for the Slave's to defeat itself, at no risk to himself.
...
the fourth round would seem the obvious choice...
Usually ...
I have to make my move in one or the other...
The second or the fourth...
...that would mean an easy win!
And if Tonegawa chose to play Slave ...
...I would be 100% safe.
...if I were to play Citizen in the second round...
The confrontation can wait until the fourth round...
I can still trust things to chance later, after I've given this a shot.
The chance is too good to let pass me by...!
I can't go wrong here with the Citizen...
I can go with Citizen, then wait and see...!
... will be Citizen!
The second card...
That's the wisest choice.

"Wait and see" ...!

...already sensed my fear.
That means
Tonegawa has probably ...


I have to play Emperor!
Maybe that's exactly why
Wait ...!

There's no way he'll be expecting Emperor.
...he's probably 99% sure that I'm going to go with the safe bet and choose Citizen instead.

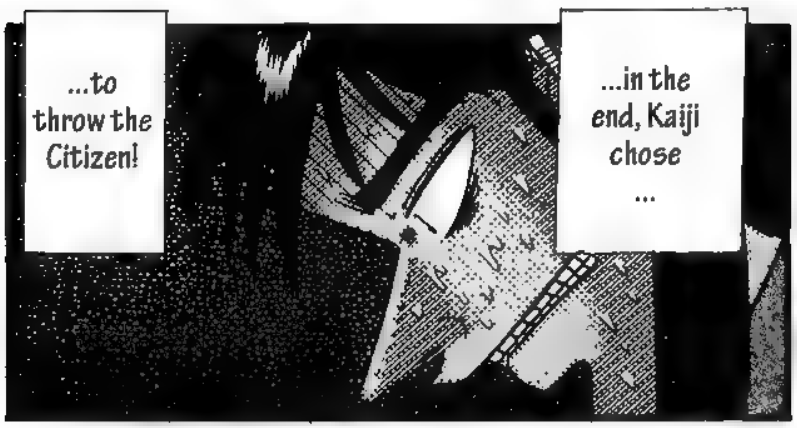
Not a chance ...!
I abandon the safe route ...
... and play Emperor ...
... Emperor!
It's reverse logic ...!
I've gotta play Emperor ...!
Emperor ...!
.....

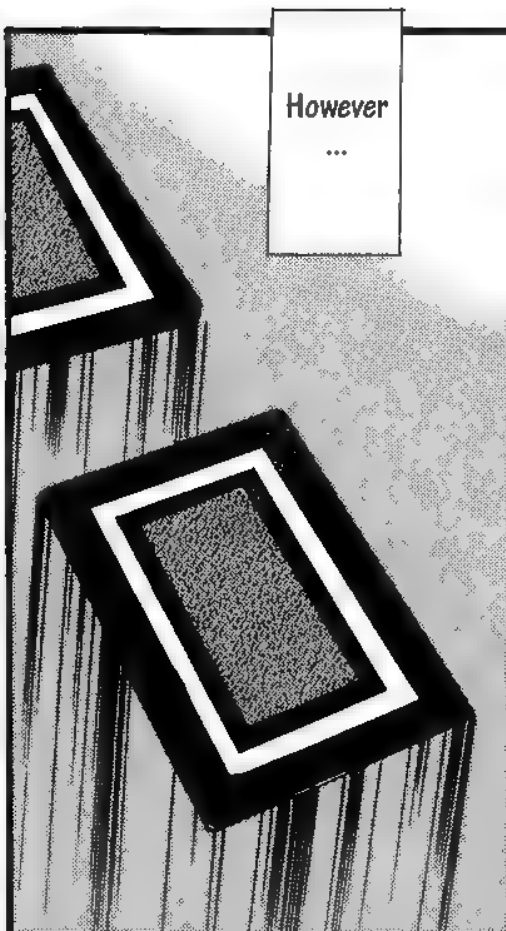
Hehehe
...
Tonegawa set his card ...!
The second trick.
Kaiji ...!
The next move was Kaiji's ...!

I'm 99% sure Tonegawa will play Citizen ...
HAH...
I've gotta go with Emperor ...!
... and throw Emperor ... I've gotta win ...
HAH...
HAH...
I have to show some guts ...
I can do it ...!
... Emperor!
Come on ...!
Here we go ...!
HAH...
HAH...

Emperor
...!

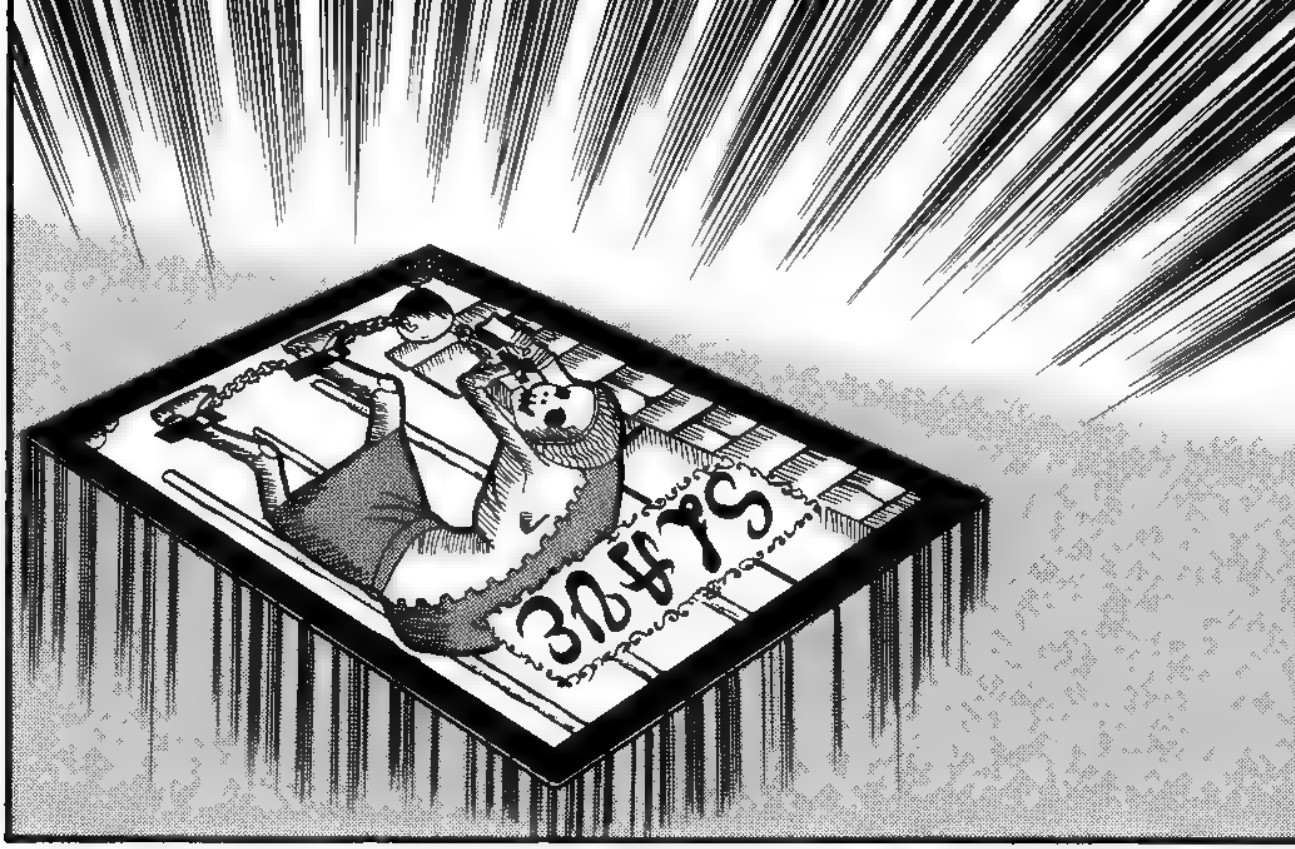
Ngh ...!
Throw the card ...!
Come on ...!
... to man up!
Time ...
It's time ...
This it it ...!
It's time ...!


...to throw the Citizen!
...in the end, Kaiji chose ...


However ...

I couldn't do it ...!
He took the safer option ...

If I had just thrown Emperor I would have won...
Why couldn't I throw the card ...!?
Play ...!
Hmph ...
So why ...?
I'd have won... I know I would ...
THWAP



?
B-But ...
But ...

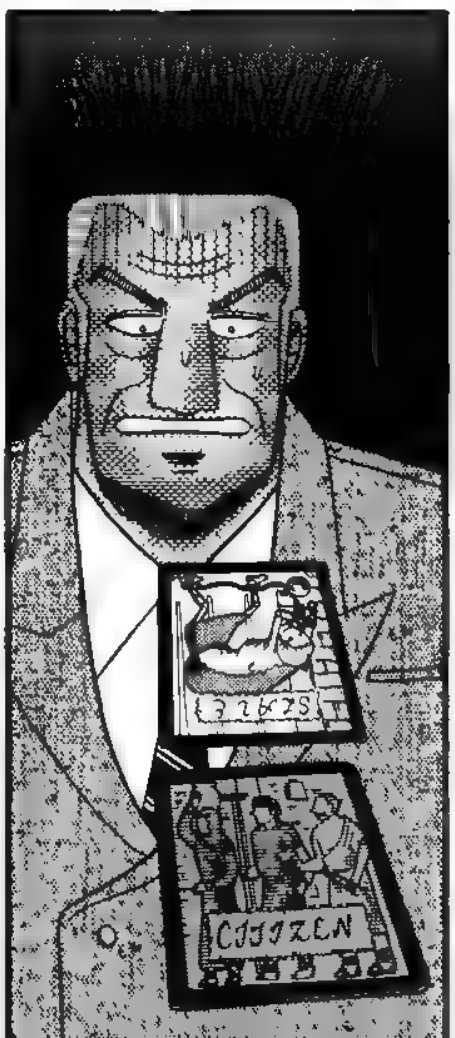
Tonegawa played the Slave ...!
Huh ...!?

THWAP

And Kaiji played Citizen ...!

It was Kaiji's win ...!
Ngh ...!
Ahh ...!

ざわ…
His confusion ...
SLAVE
CITIZEN

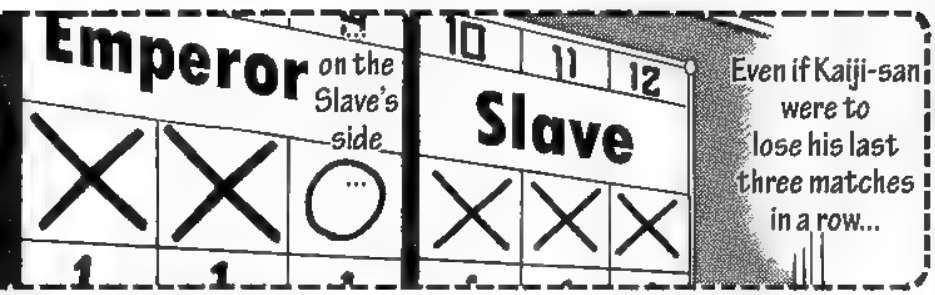

SLAVE
CITIZEN

Kaiji was in the clear ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
... his hesitation, had saved him.
He had won ...!
Won what was most important ...
...he had won his survival!
With this match ...
End of Chapter 112

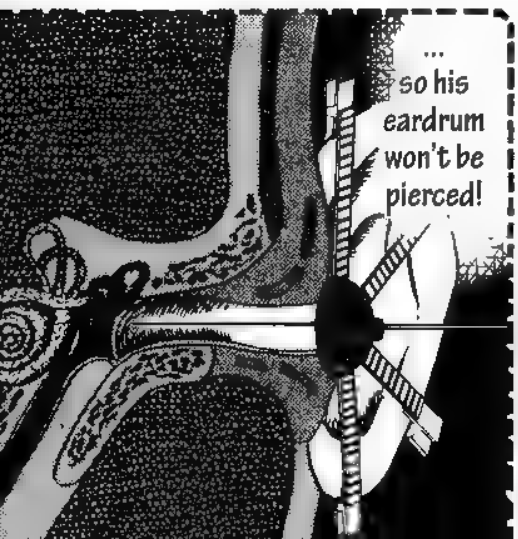
ざわ…ざわ…

Yes ...!

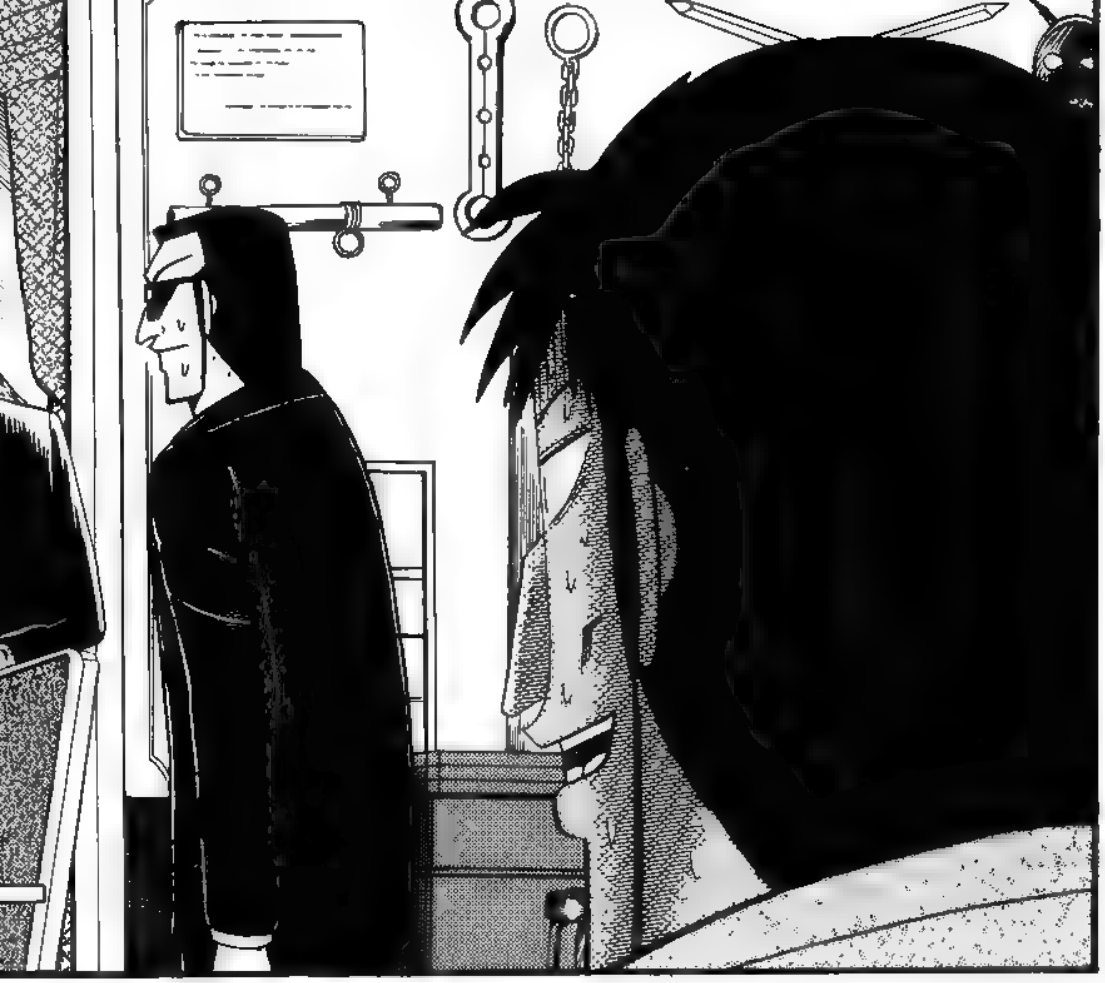
ざわ…


Emperor on the Slave's side
10
11
12
Slave
1
1
Even if Kaiji-san were to lose his last three matches in a row...

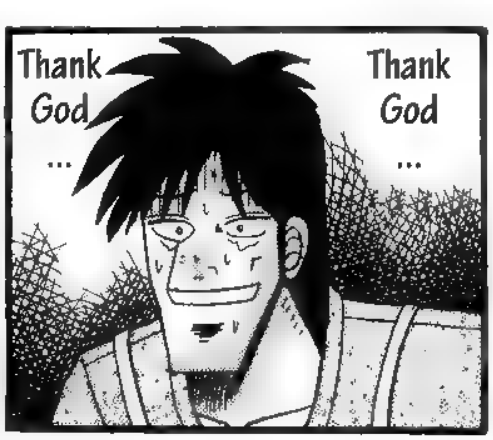
That's it ...!
That mean's he'll survive ...!
10
7


... so his eardrum won't be pierced!

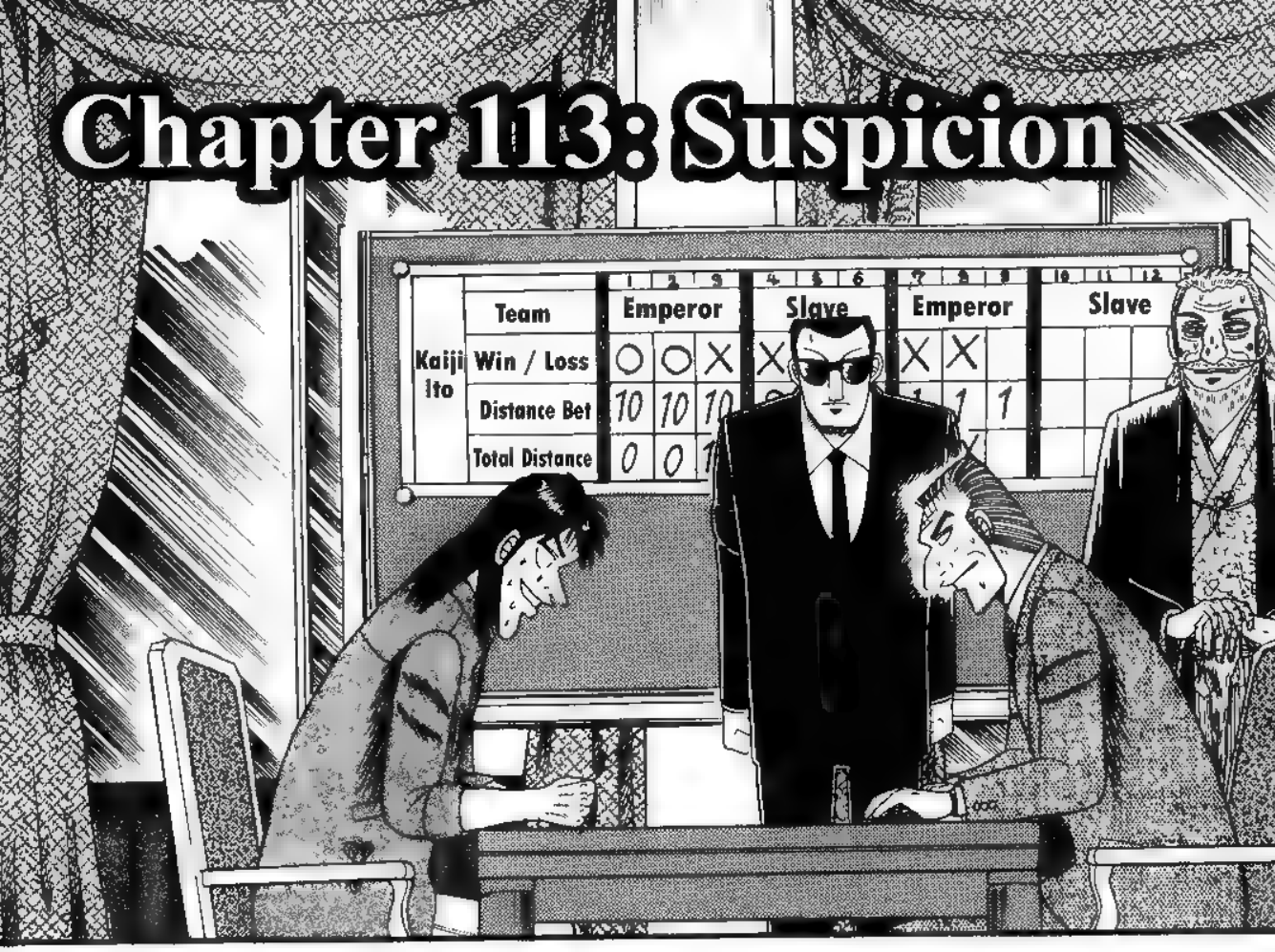
It won't reach 30 ...
1
28
29
... the needle will have only moved 29mm.

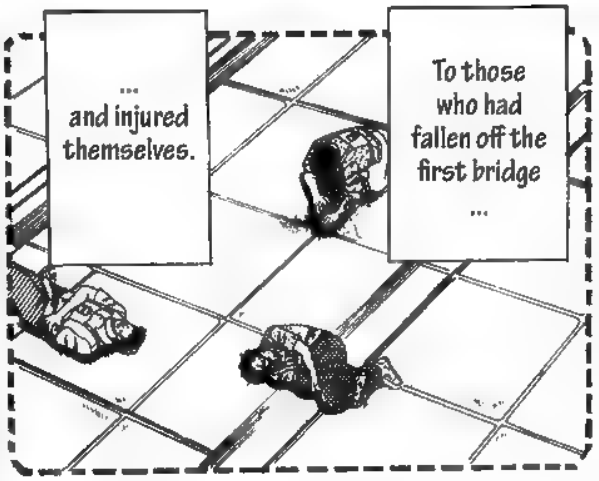


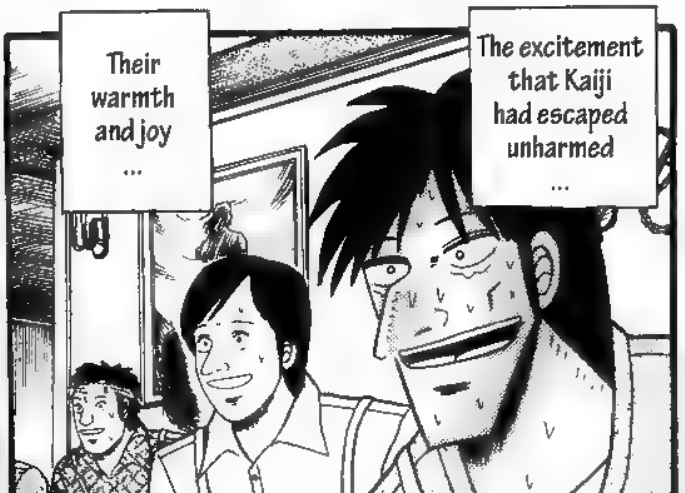
He'll survive!!



Chapter 113: Suspicion

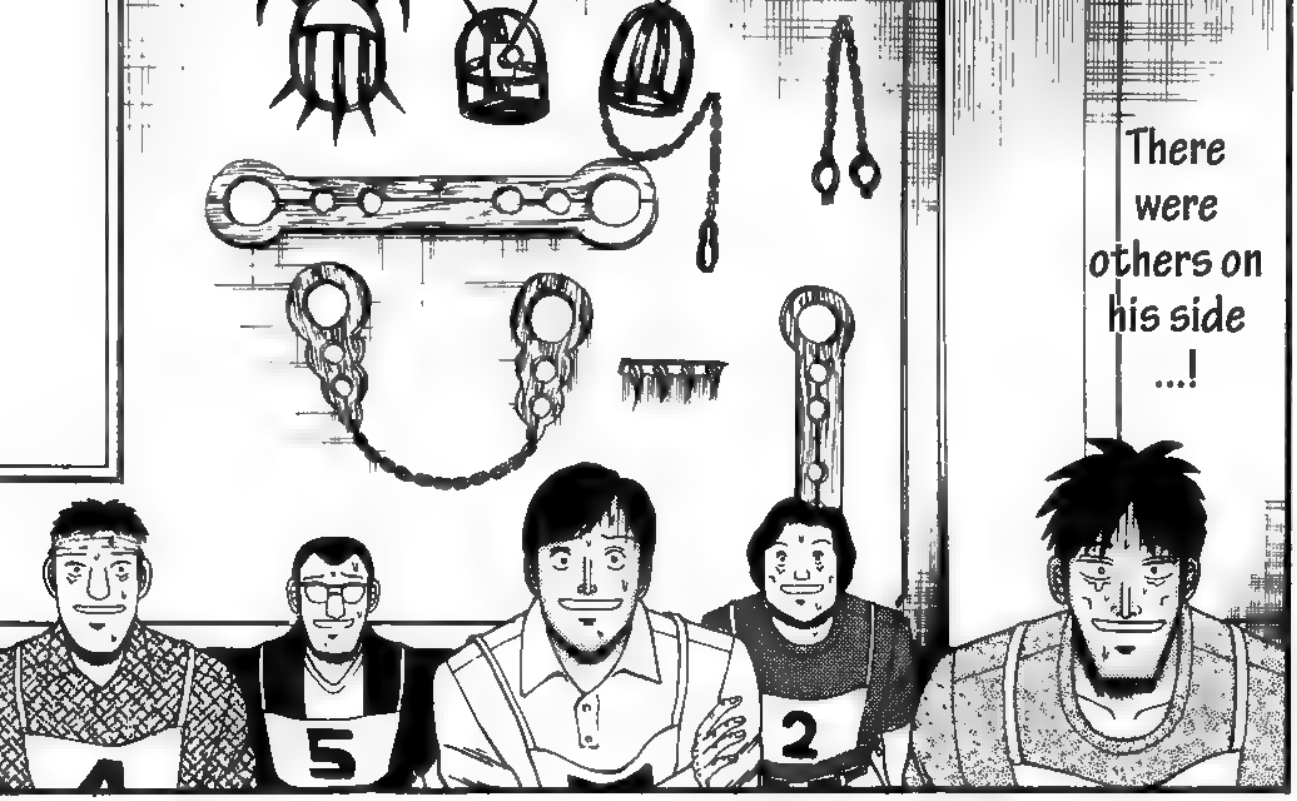




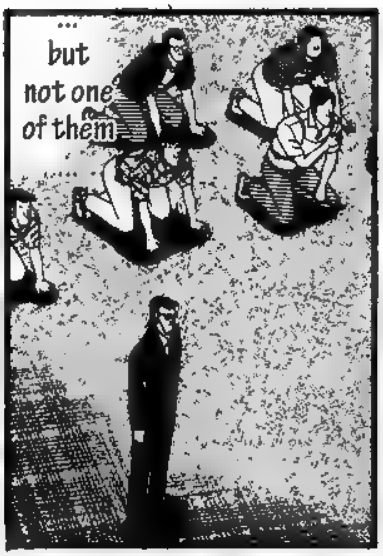


Kaiji suddenly realized ...
Ahh ...!

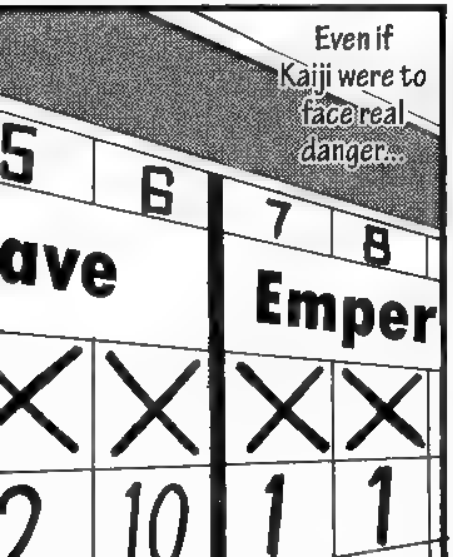
...that he hadn't been fighting alone.


There were others on his side ...!

... had put their support in words.

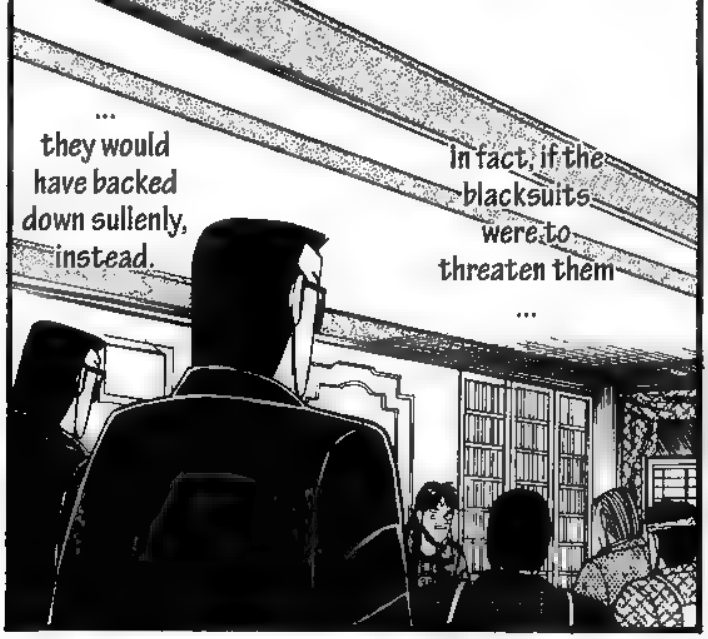

... but not one of them ...

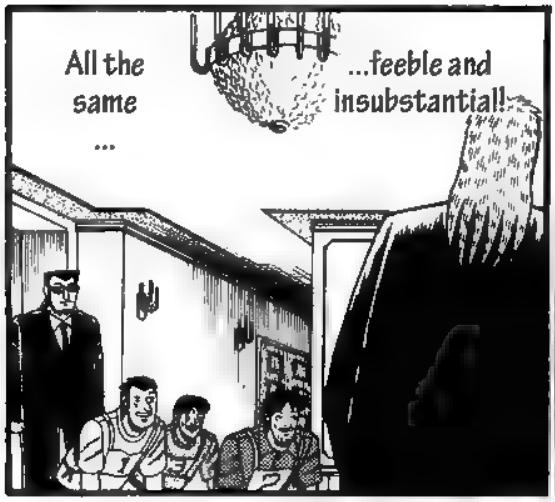
So many people were there, cheering for him ...

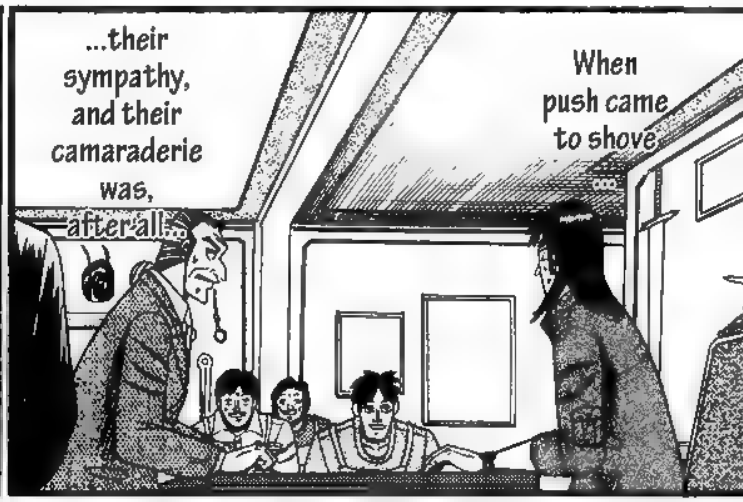

Even if Kaiji were to face real danger...
5
6
7
8
ave
Emper
2
10
1
1

Instead they rooted for him in silence.

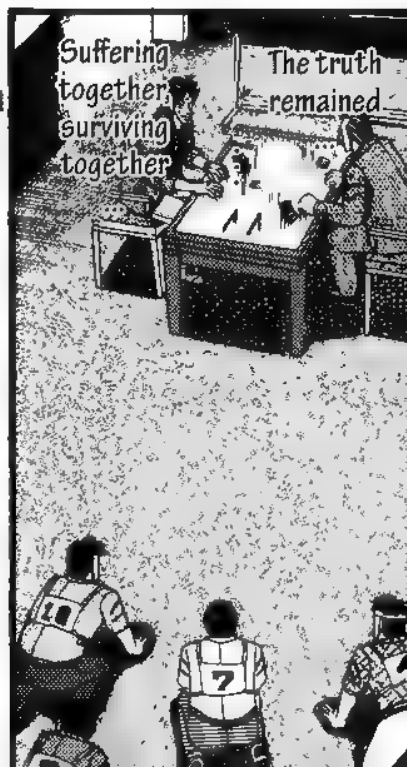
... in words, or with applause ...
They did not cheer ...

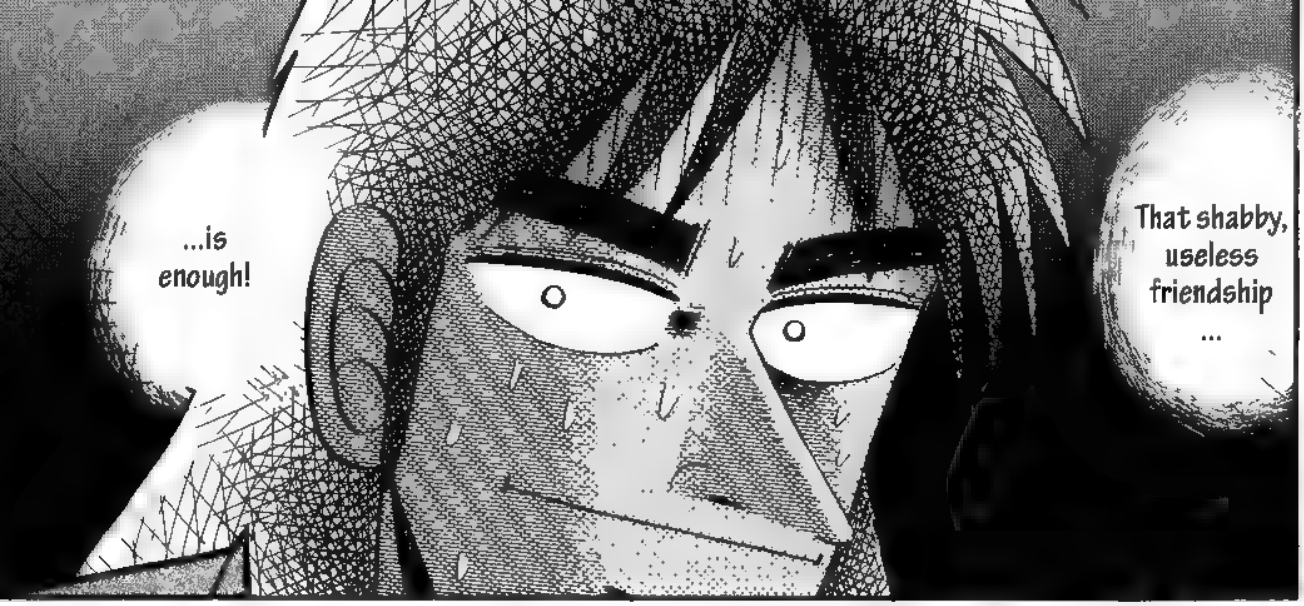


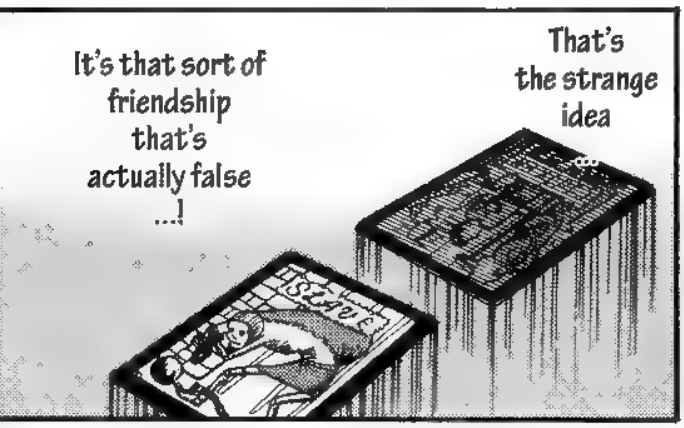


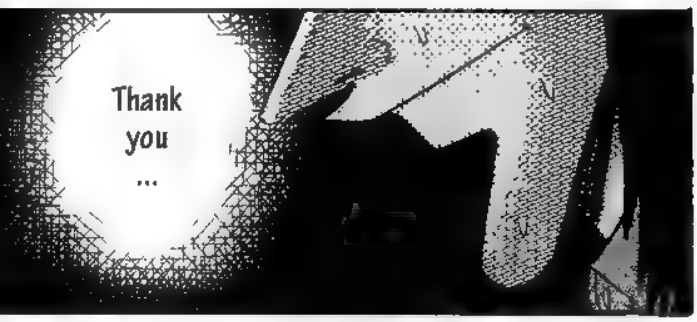


...
had touched Kaiji's heart!









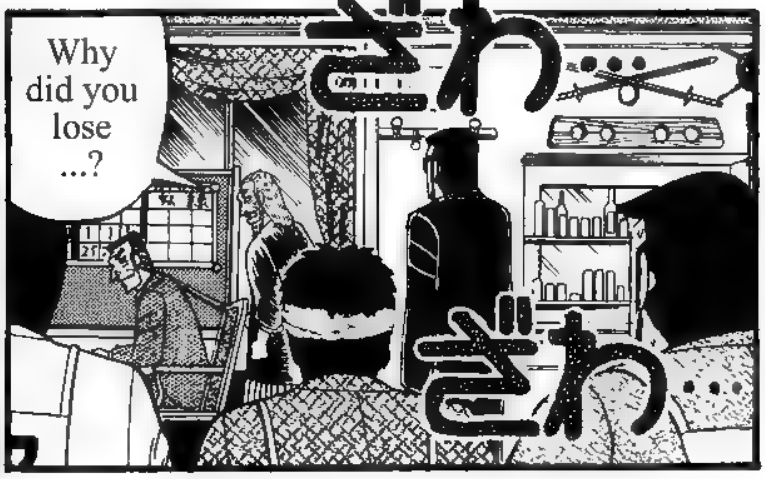
Their thoughts are enough ...!

Thank you, everyone ...!

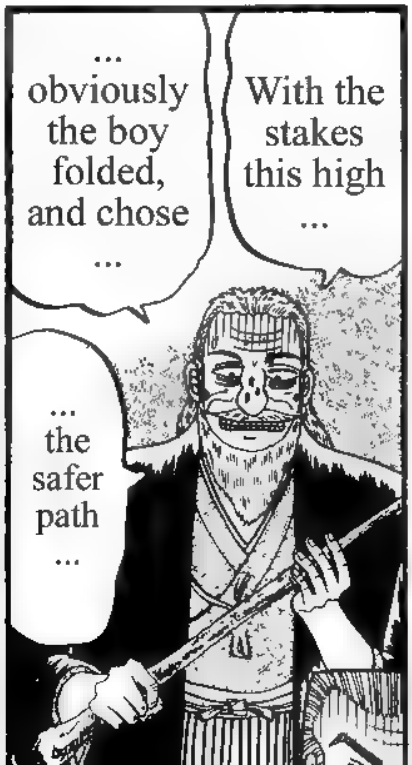
CRACK

ざわ…
Huh …!?

This should have been in the bag …!

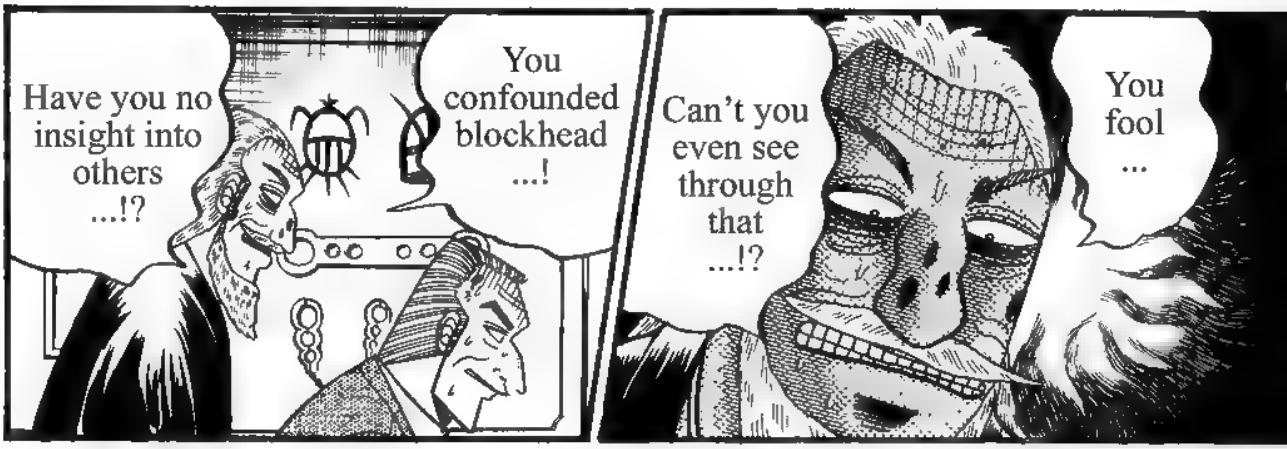

Why did you lose …?
ざわ
ざわ…

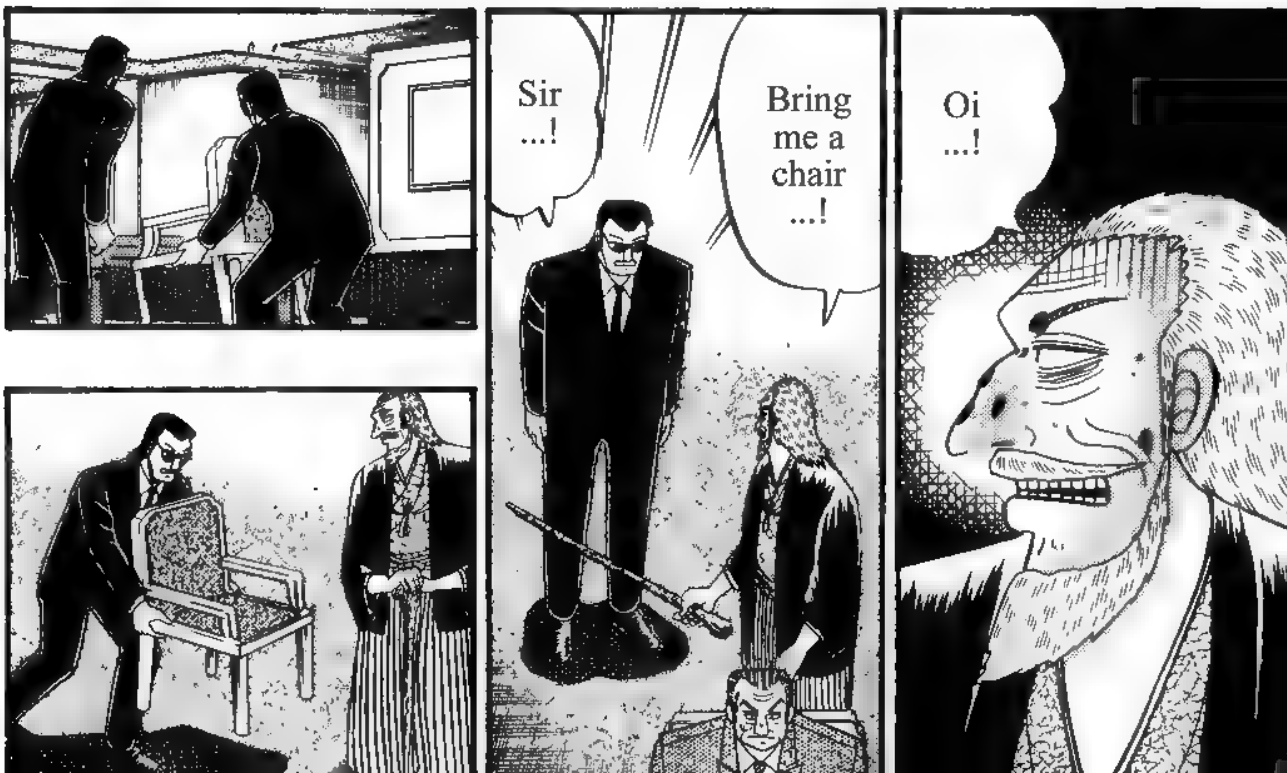
You should have expected such weakness …!
That's the hallmark of a beginner …


… obviously the boy folded, and chose …
With the stakes this high …
… the safer path …

He changed his mind at the last moment, when he played the card...
I'm sorry …
You fool …!

BASH


Have you no insight into others ...!?
You confounded blockhead ...!
Can't you even see through that ...!?
You fool ...

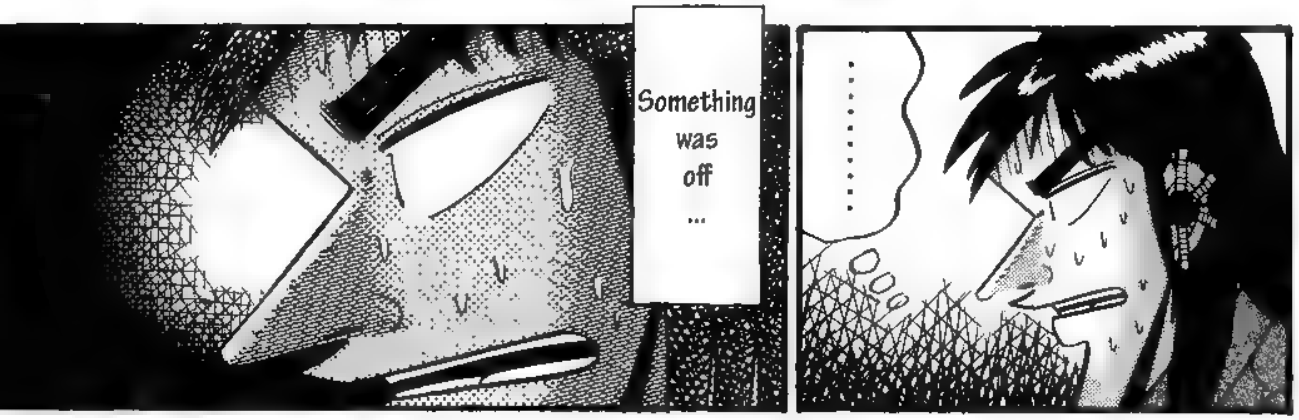

Sir ...!
Bring me a chair ...!
Oi ...!

I've lost interest ...!
THUD
... the boy will simply bet 1mm each time and then escape unscathed.
In the last three matches ...
.....
.....
Imbecile ...!
There is no thrill left ...
What is the point, now ...?
THONK

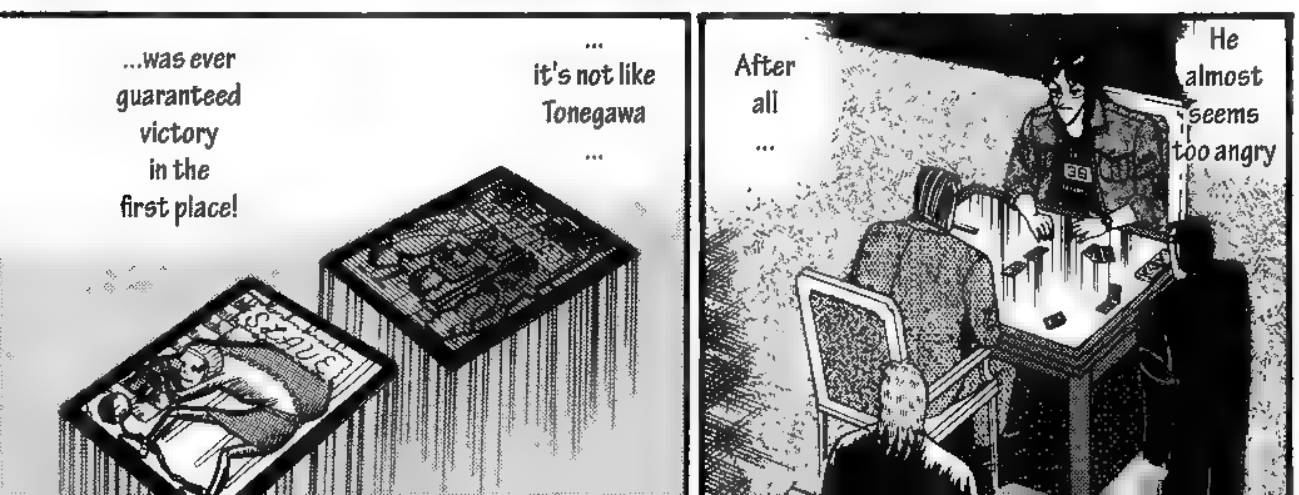
……
ERS

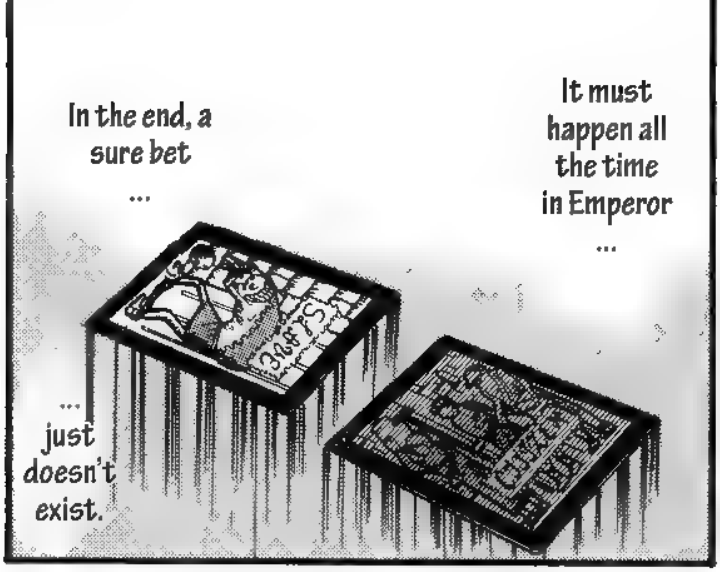
……

ごわ…

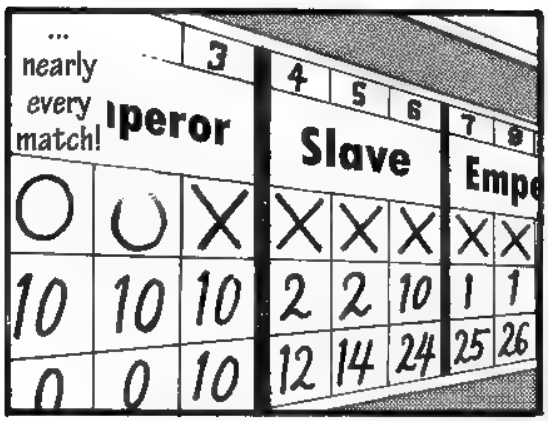

Something was off ...
……

But still ...
...that the director would be angry about his fun being spoiled...
I can understand ...
Something about the director's anger ...!

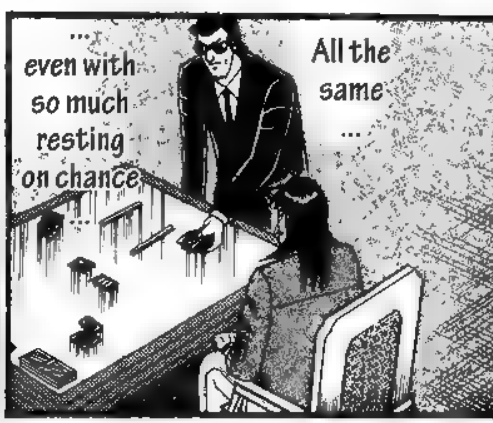

...was ever guaranteed victory in the first place!
... it's not like Tonegawa ...
After all ...
He almost seems too angry

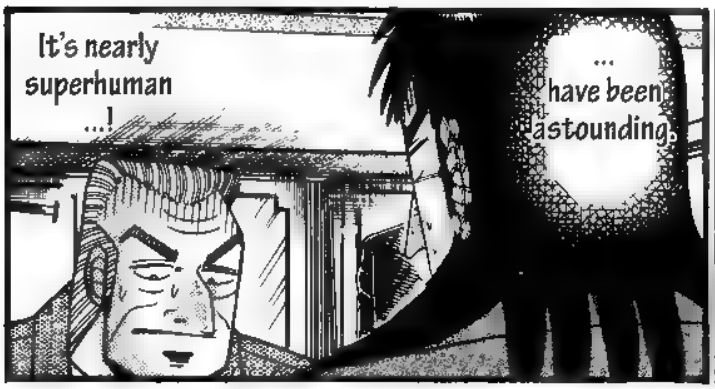

In the end, a sure bet
...
It must happen all the time in Emperor
...
...
just doesn't exist.

...
and changed my card
...
I simply hesitated
...

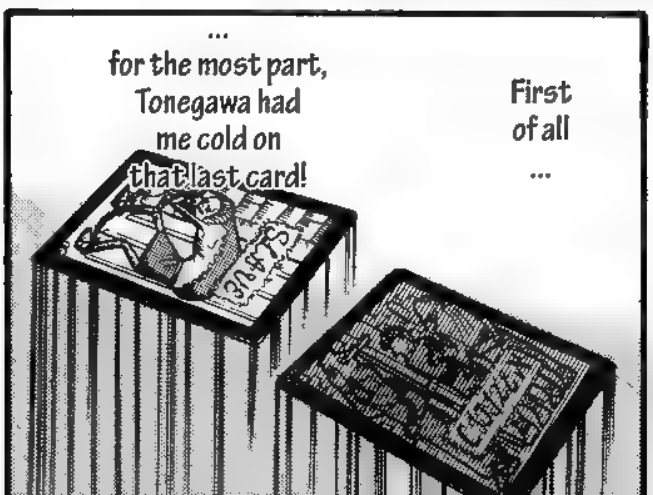

...
nearly every match!
3
Iperor
4 5 6
Slave
7 8
Empe
10 10 10
2 2 10
1 1
12 14 24
25 26
0 0 10

...
so far, Tonegawa has won
...


...
even with so much resting on chance
...
All the same
...

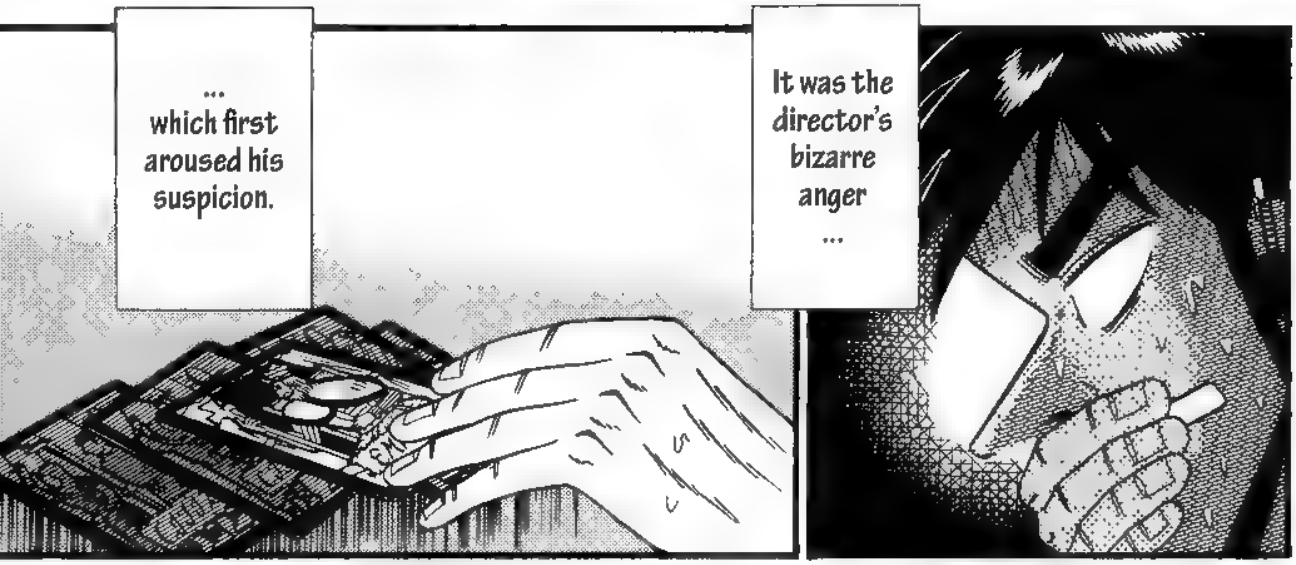

It's nearly superhuman ...!
...
have been astounding.

...
Tonegawa's powers of perception
...
Anyway you slice it

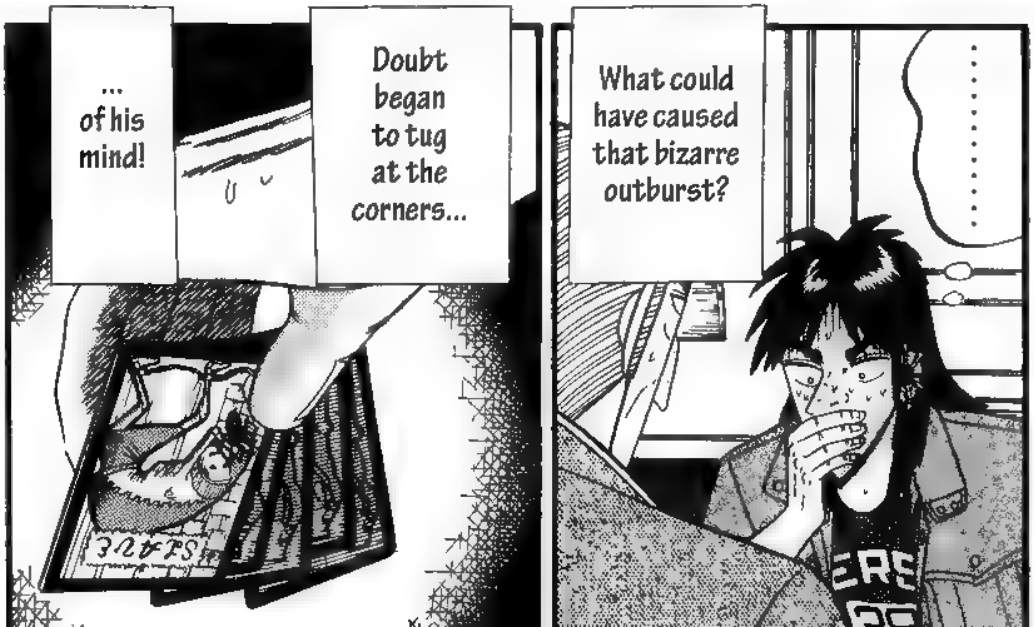

...
for the most part, Tonegawa had me cold on that last card!
First of all
...

...
or to call him a blockhead.
It makes no sense to say he has no insight.
...

... he lost.
That's the only reason ...
... when I played Citizen.
Not even I understand what I was thinking ...
... until the very end.
I didn't change my mind ...
You couldn't even call it a mistake ...!
How could he be expected to read that far ahead ...?
It was practically an accident ...!
You can't call that a mistake ...!
It's strange ...
The director's anger is entirely unreasonable ...



There was something unreasonable ...



Something that just didn't make sense

....!

End of Chapter 113

That was no mistake ...!

Chapter 114: Exposure

...Tonegawa claimed that by watching my attitude when I played...

Earlier in the night

... realized it sooner?

Why hadn't I ...

... then why hadn't he earlier!?

If Tonegawa could make mistakes ...

It was a result !

...he guessed every single card, just like he said!

And then, like some sort of miracle ...

	3	4	5	6	7	8
	eror		Slave		Empero	
	○	○	×	×	×	×	×	×
Distance Bet	10	10	10	2	2	10	1	1
Total Distance	0	0	10	12	14	24	25	26

... he could tell what my card was!

... or even right after I played ...

He must have ...!

... to tip the odds in his favor!?

Could Tonegawa have done something

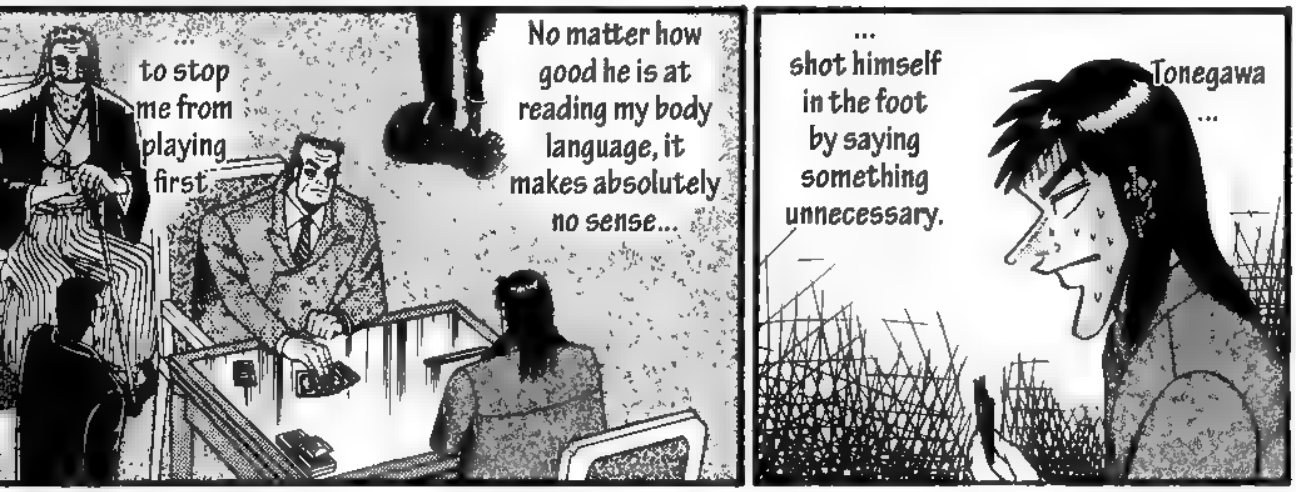
Tonegawa's losing was no mistake !!!

In fact ...
... for him to have told me so much.
... the more unnecessary it would seem...
... the more I consider it ...
... as that might seem ...
As incredible ...

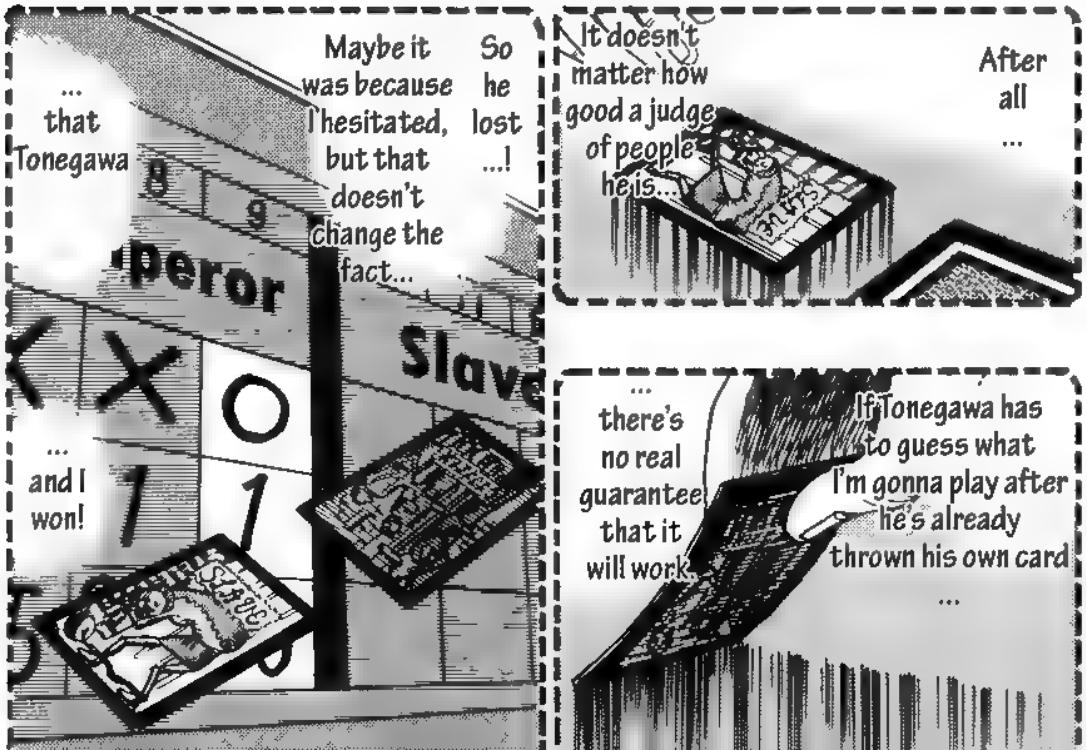
He couldn't have gained anything by doing so...
After all ...
... it was in his best interests not to!

...until after Tonegawa had already thrown, is because he told me all that in the first place.
The only reason I chose to wait to play my key cards ...
The only thing he could have accomplished by telling me was to jeopardize his chances of winning...!
... there would have still been a chance.
If he hadn't told me ...

He would've had a sure bet...!
That way he couldn't have lost...
But instead...
...Tonegawa could have read my card through my attitude afterwards.
In that case...
...that I played my hand first, and forced the confrontation.


...to stop me from playing first.
No matter how good he is at reading my body language, it makes absolutely no sense...
...shot himself in the foot by saying something unnecessary.
Tonegawa...

That match was mine...!


...that Tonegawa...
Maybe it was because I hesitated, but that doesn't change the fact...
So he lost...!
...and I won!
It doesn't matter how good a judge of people he is...
After all...
...there's no real guarantee that it will work.
If Tonegawa has to guess what I'm gonna play after he's already thrown his own card...

...
for him to tell me all that!
There was no reason

That's right ...!

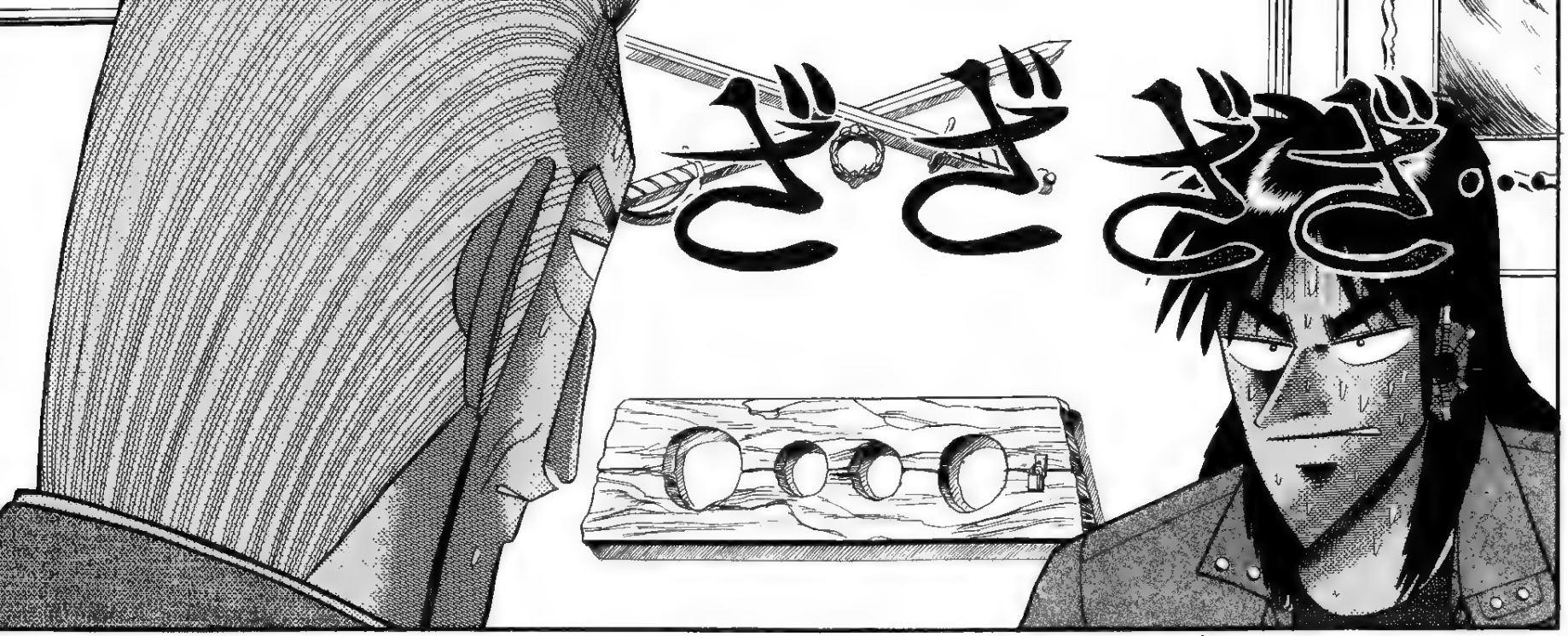
Not a thing ...!
He didn't stand to gain a thing by doing so

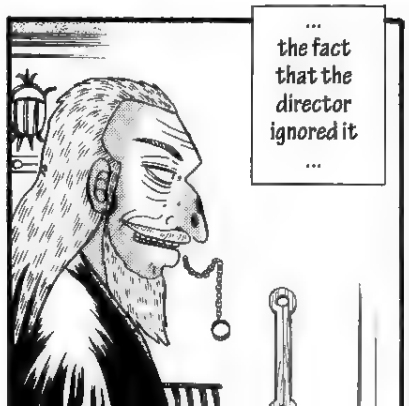
If that were the case ...
Like he didn't care if he won or lost...
...it was as if he was toying with me.
In fact ...
But from the look of things ...
I can understand that ...
...then there'd be no reason for him not to brag about his perfect strategy.
... that the director would brook no mistakes!
Tonegawa must have known ...
... that isn't actually the case!
... to run his mouth the way he did.
... he wasn't at leisure ...
Clearly ...
Naturally, he must have foreseen the director's anger.

Also ...
... Tonegawa only increased the risk to himself.
By tipping me off ...
...it's strange that he would ignore Tonegawa's indiscretion...
Considering how irate the director was at Tonegawa for losing...
...which seems like the real mistake.
He must have noticed ...
It's too strange ...
After all ...
He didn't even mention it ...
But the director didn't get angry about that ...

It just doesn't make sense...!!

...
how pointless, and risky, Tonegawa's speech was...
He must have realized ...
Certainly, he has to know a lot more about it than I do...!
who would know more about the game of Emperor than he!?
SLAVE
How stupid it was ...!
Things were beginning ...





...to get complicated!

... behind them!?
What are they hiding ...!?

That's it ...!

It was a front ...
Something important ...

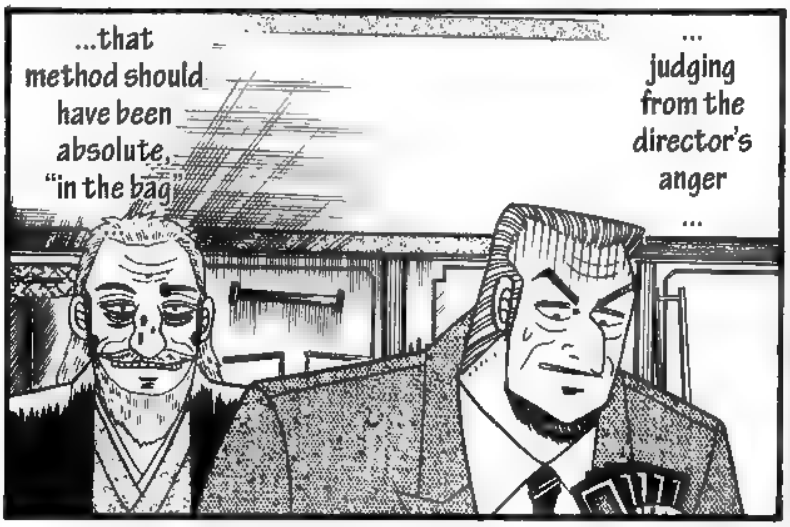
...in order to hide something else.
Hiding! That speech was a decoy...

... something else ...
He must have ...

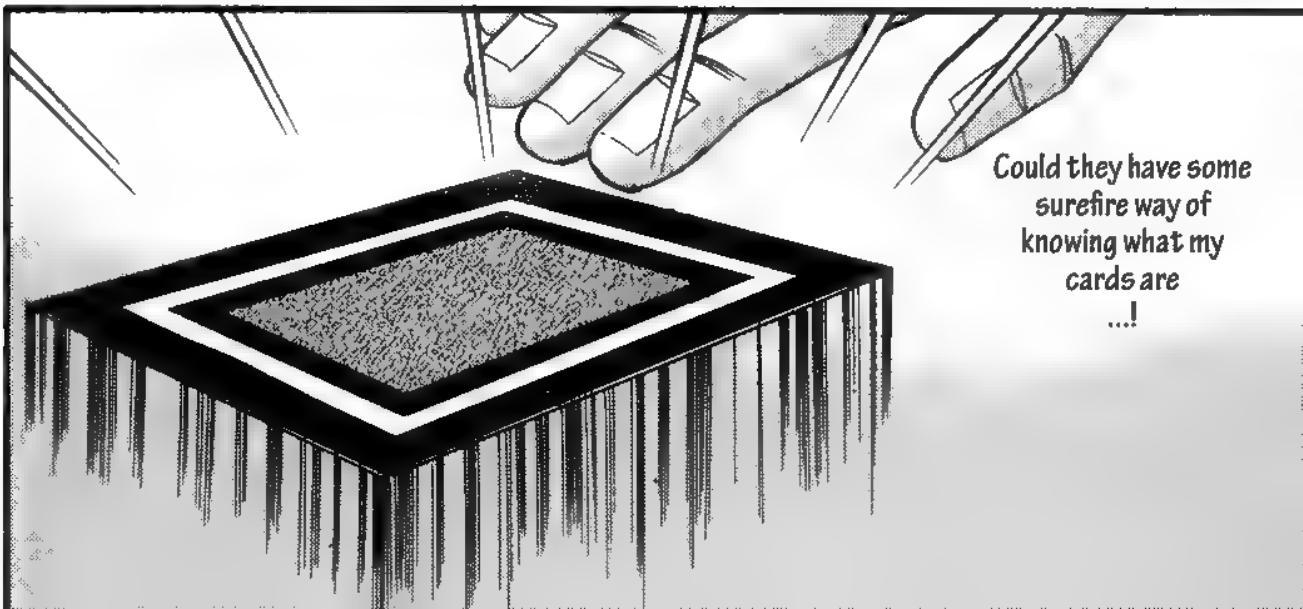
... by watching my movements.
...Tonegawa hasn't really been guessing my cards...

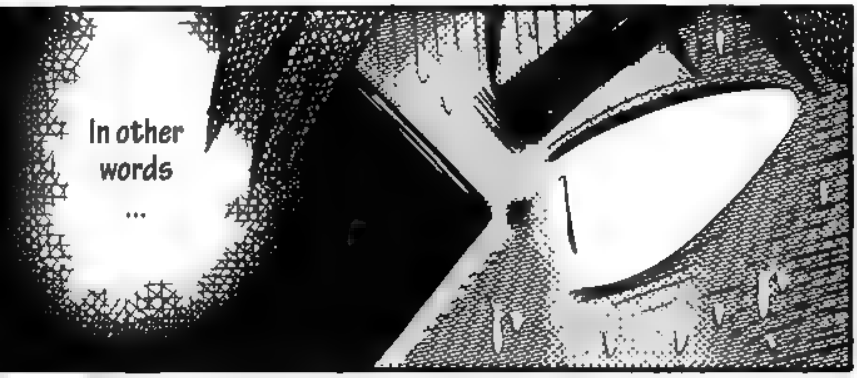
In other words ...
... designed to divert my attention!

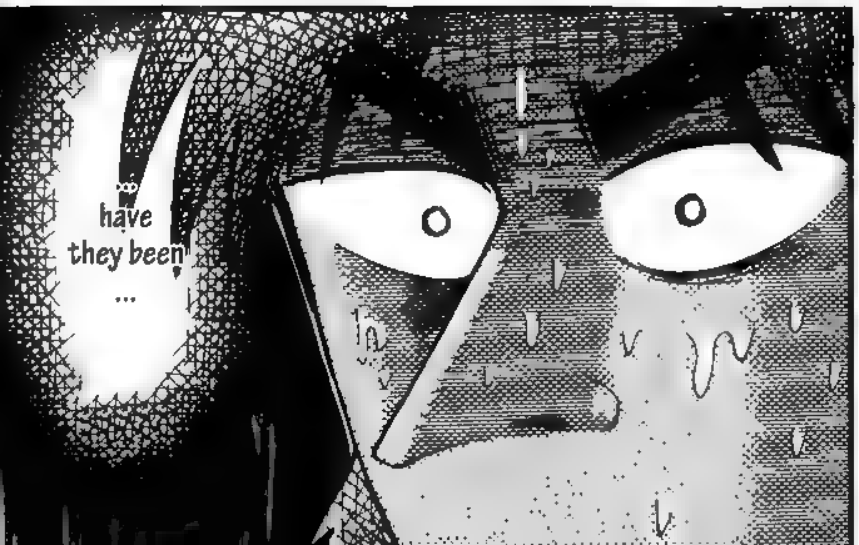
Some other means of knowing what my cards are ...!


...that method should have been absolute, "in the bag"
...judging from the director's anger ...

...whatever that something is ...
And ...


Could they have some surefire way of knowing what my cards are ...!


In other words ...

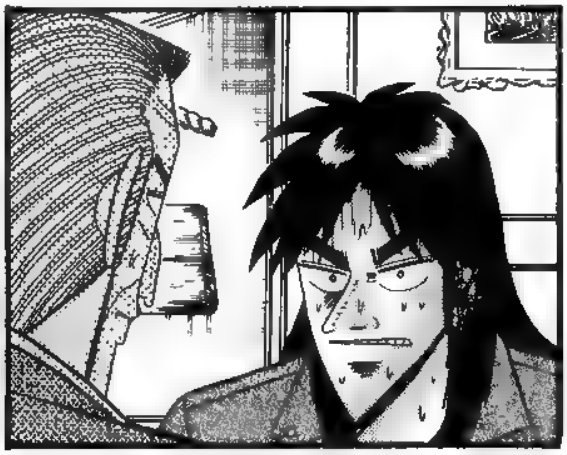

... have they been ...

Ahh ...!
さわ..

...
cheating!?
SLAVE
...
cheating!?
Slave
Have
they
been
...

End of Chapter 114

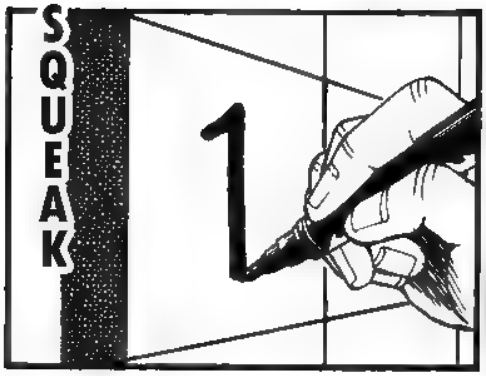
Chapter 115: The Truth



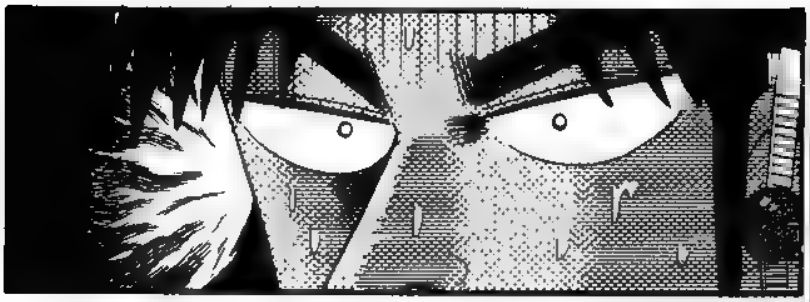
Have they been cheating...!?

Sir ...!
Slave
1mm ...

.....


SQUEAK

Slave
Emperor
Slave
X X X X X O
10 2 2 10 1 1
0 12 14 24 25 26



.....

If they are cheating, how ...!?

But still ...

They can't be watching from behind ...
Even if they tried ...
... my body is in the way.
It's impossible ...!
From above ...?
No ...
I don't see anything that could be a camera ...!
And the cards aren't marked ...
Then what ...?
What could it be ...!?
SLAVE

What ...!?

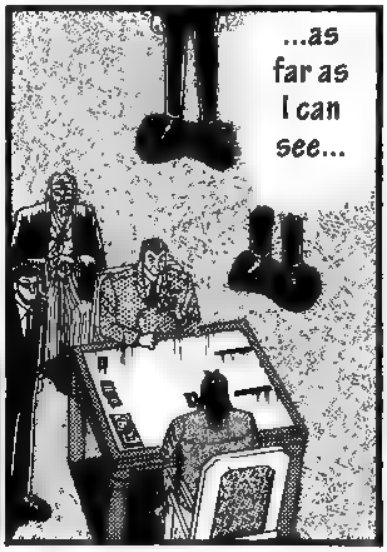
The tenth match.
.....

Kaiji was next.
.....
...from the Emperor's side.
It was Tonegawa's lead...
FWIP

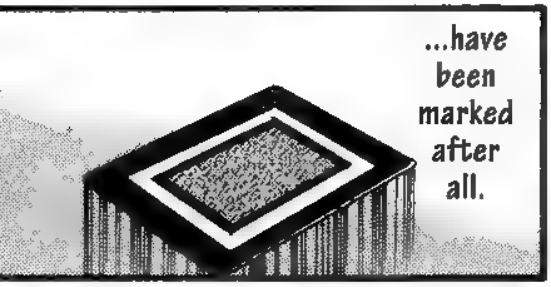
FWIP
Kaiji also threw his card quickly.
It was Citizen ...!
...there was no reason for him to play Emperor on the first trick.
Since Tonegawa could guess which card Kaiji had played after he threw it...
His card was also Citizen.
...had expected as much.
The first trick was a draw.
Kaiji...
.....
The problem was the second trick ...
FWIP

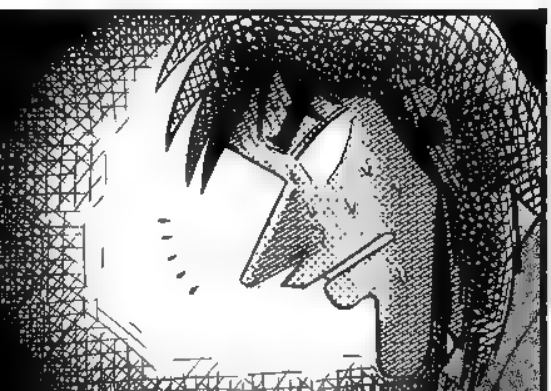
The second trick, where Kaiji plays first!!

...can see my cards!
...no one on this floor...


...as far as I can see...

...off the bat...
But still ...


...have been marked after all.



... maybe the cards ...
In that case ...

No one ...!
None of them could be tipping him off...!

I'm wrong ...!

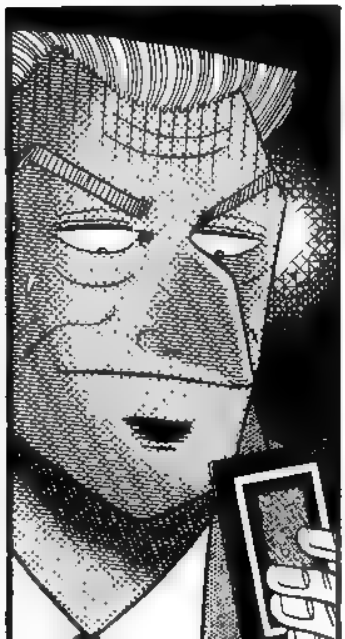
Wait a sec ...!

That someone ...

There is someone on the floor who can see my cards...
There is someone ...!

I'm the one ...!
... is me!
...like through my attitude or my body language...
And not in some vague way ...
...that I'm sending him signals, myself?
Could it be possible ...
...that Tonegawa is receiving?
...some signal ...
Could I be sending...
...but some way that's clearer.

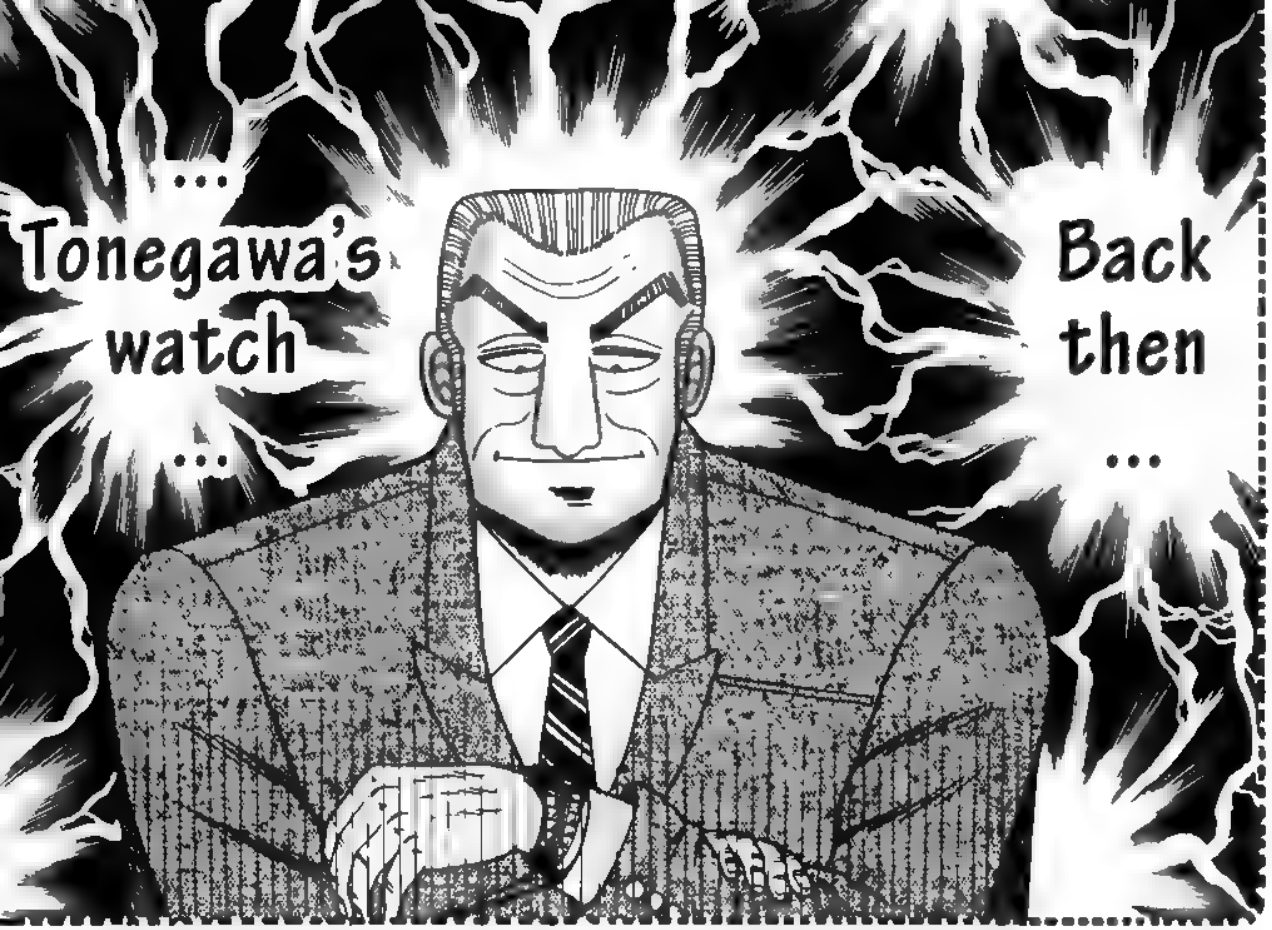
His line of sight ...



His eyes ...

He's not looking at his cards ...!
He's looking down ...!

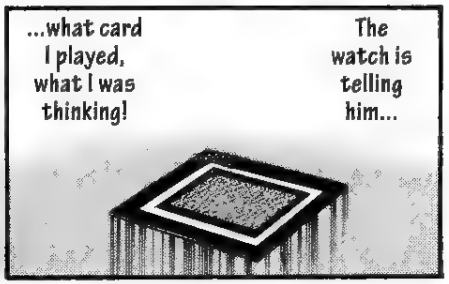
His watch ...!
He's looking further down...
...closer to his watch...
Hehehe ...
There's no way it's 1:30...
No way...!
Now I remember...
1:15...
No problems there...


...
Tonegawa's watch
...
Back then
...

...in the opposite direction than it is now!
His watch was clasped ...!

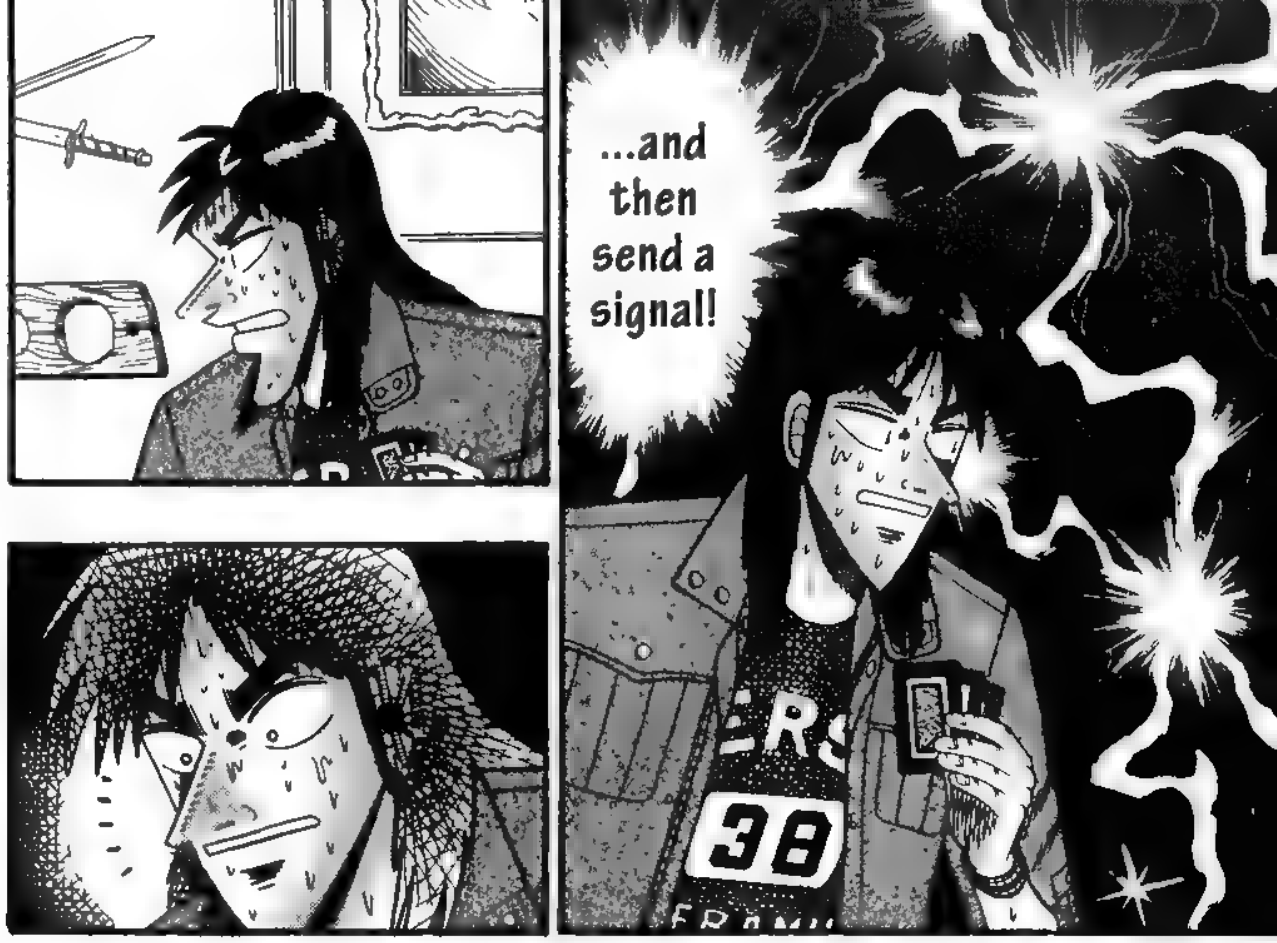
It was reversed ...!

To what purpose ...!?
But why ...?
He turned it...!
His watch ...!



Obviously ...

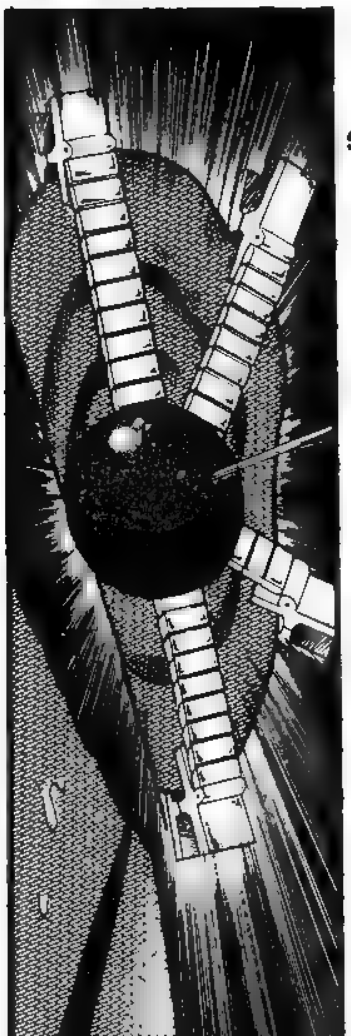
And in that case ...


...and then send a signal!
38

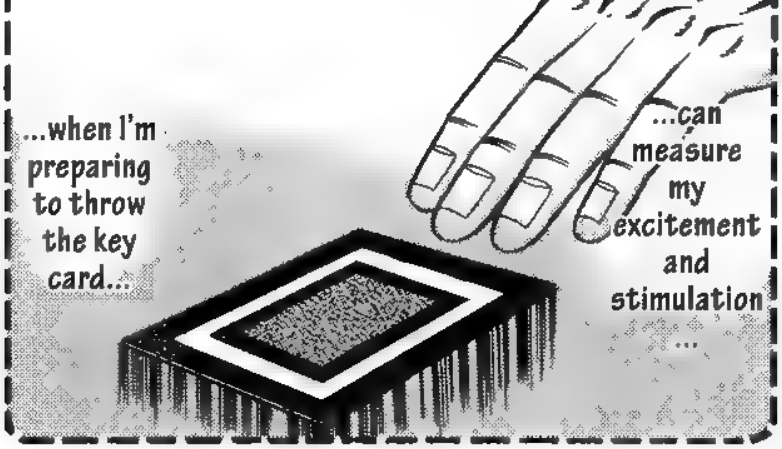
Ahhh
...!

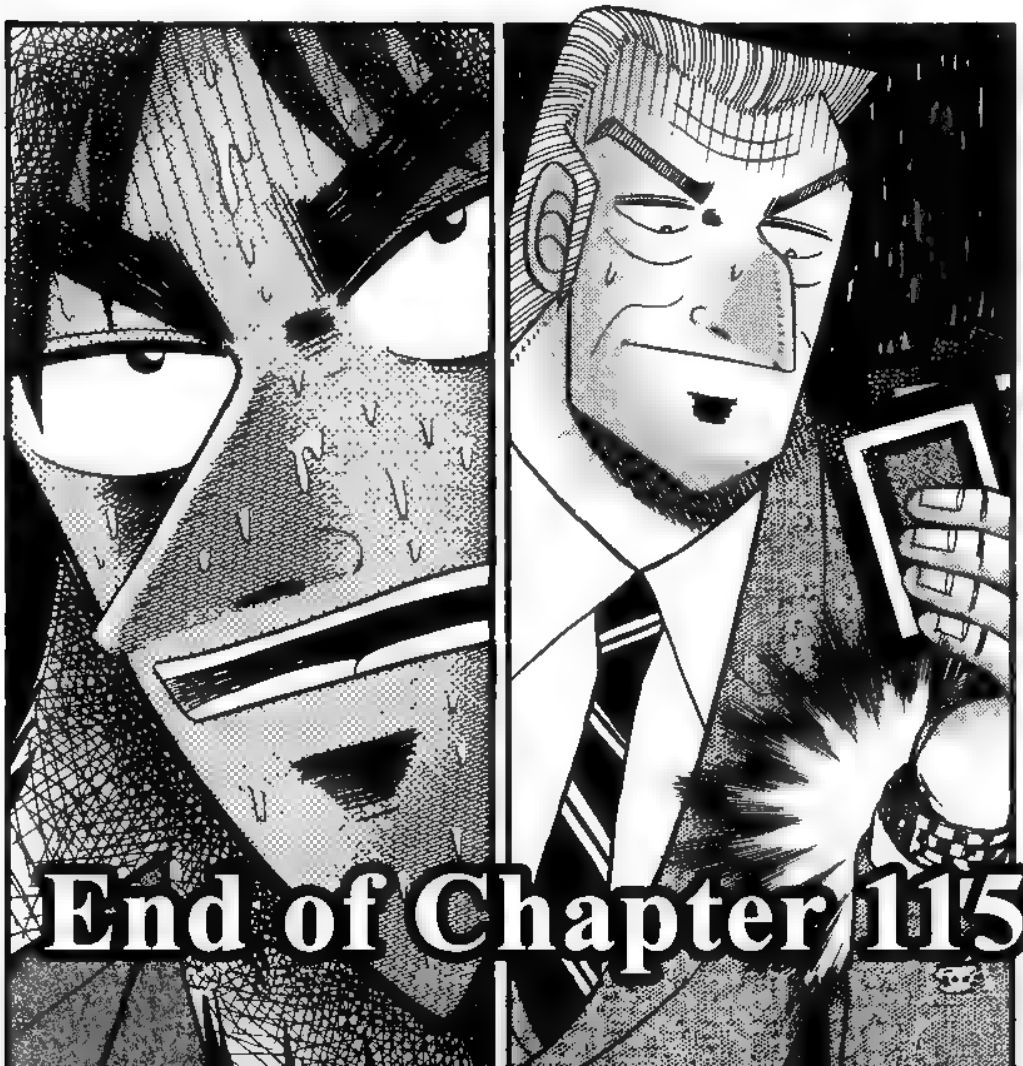
The device ...!

It's a sensor ...!



And a transmitter ...!





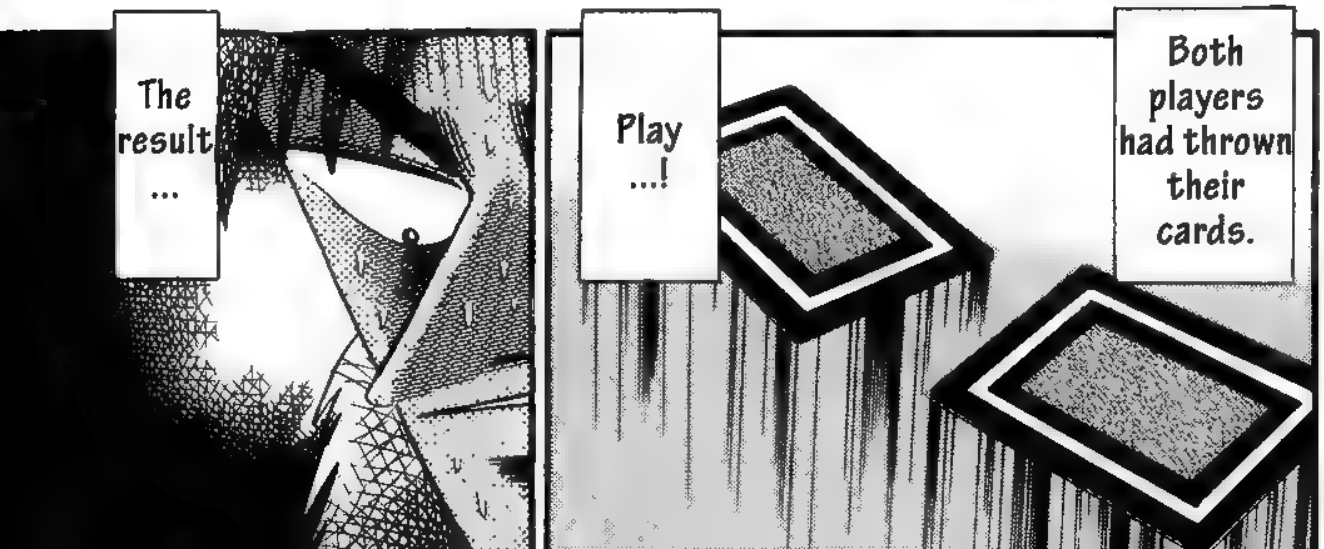
...and then transmit them to that watch!

End of Chapter 115

The watch ...!
It's the watch ...!

The watch is receiving signals...!
FWIP
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…

Chapter 116: Sacrilege

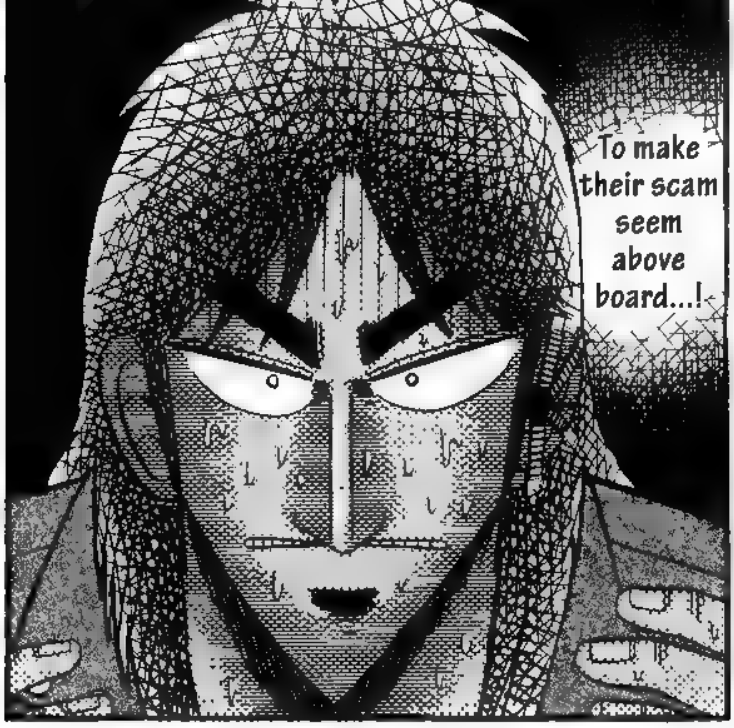


...
naturally, was Tonegawa's win!
.....
Kaiji had thrown his key card, the Slave...
...and Tonegawa had foreseen it once again!
Tonegawa's record was now...
...7 and 3!
FLIP
FLIP
SQUEAK

BEEP
...another millimeter!
...it did advance...
While the needle would no longer be piercing his eardrum...
Ngh...!
...Kaiji's thoughts...
Amidst that piercing shrill...

...and with them new realizations!
...swirled inside his head...
Of course ...!
.....
...either an eye or an ear!
...I was given the option of choosing...
...when the match started...
Now that I remember ...

...was the obvious choice!
If it had to be one or the other, than the ear...
... against their money
I had to wager either an eye or an ear...
9 out of 10 people would choose the ear...!
Who would want to lose an eye?
...in the eye device as well...
Of course, something might be hidden...
Almost anyone would choose ear...!
It's obvious ...!
...to erase my suspicions!
...was probably designed ...
...but giving me the choice ...


To make their scam seem above board...!

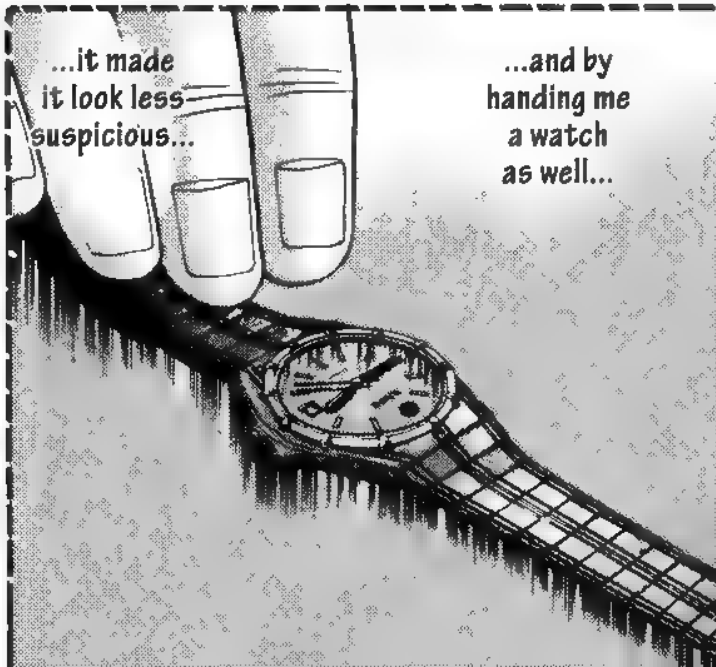
It was all for show...

...but by limiting our time to five minutes...
A time limit wasn't really necessary...

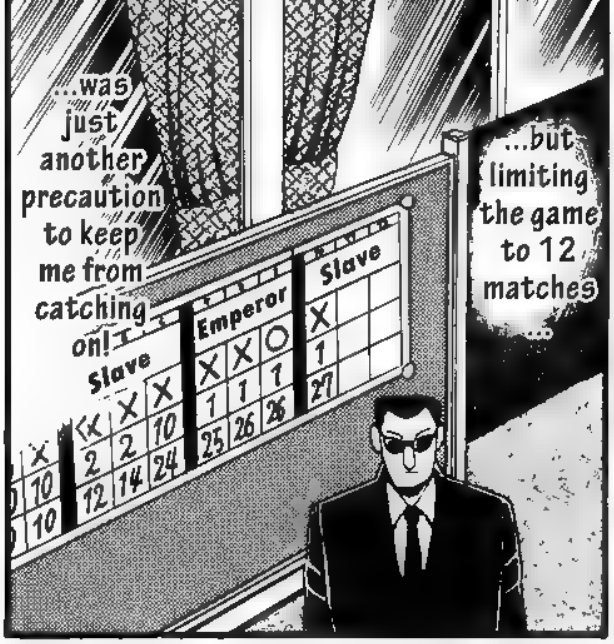
That was another clever trick...

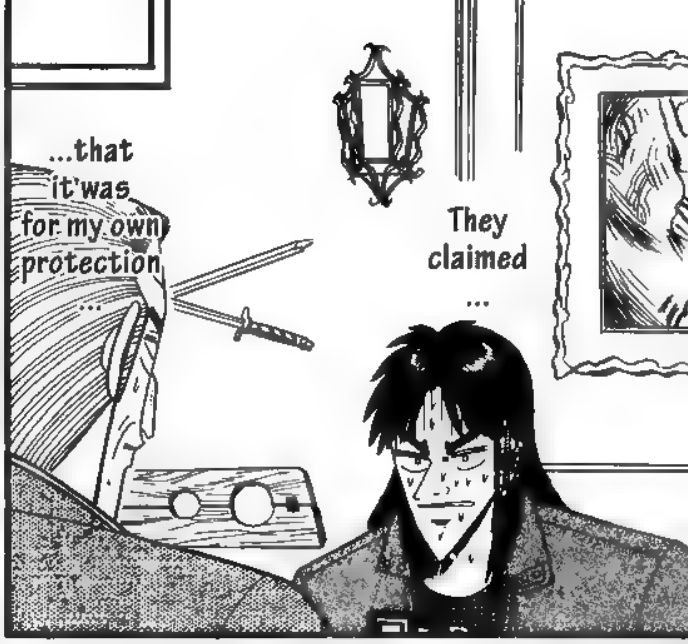
...there was the watch ...
On top of that ...

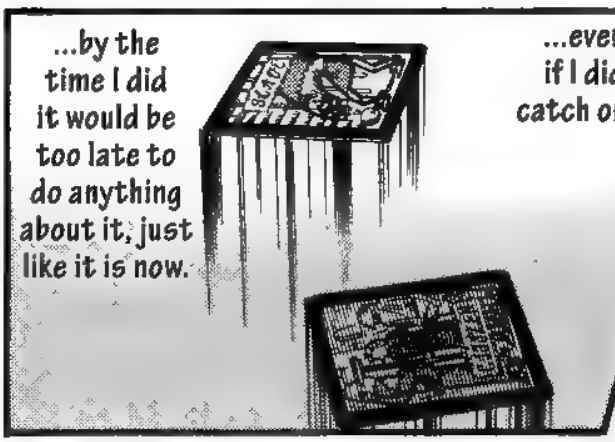
The whole thing was premeditated ...!
...that he was checking his own watch!


...it made it look less suspicious...
...and by handing me a watch as well...

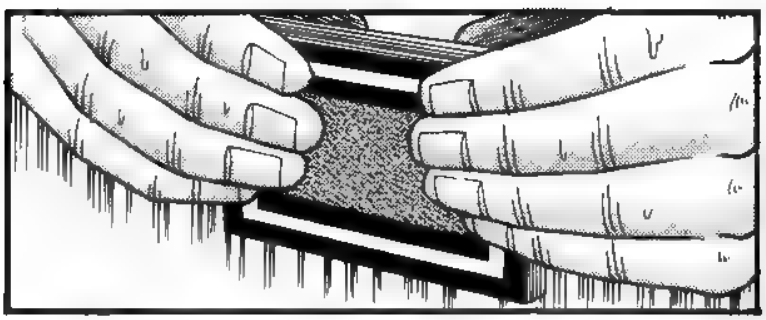
...his way with words ...
The next step they trusted to Tonegawa's special weapon ...
...from the two devices ...
First they drew suspicion away...
To guess what card I was going to play based on my movements and my attitude...
...was somehow due to his power to read me...
...that the bizarre way he always won when throwing second...
Tonegawa was able to convince me...
...was still more genius on their part!
...to only 12 matches ...
8
Emperor
10
11
12
Slave
X
O
X
1
1
1
26
26
27
And limiting the game...
They were camouflaging the truth ...!
But it was just a performance ...


...was just another precaution to keep me from catching on!
...but limiting the game to 12 matches...
Slave
Emperor
Slave


...that it was for my own protection...
They claimed...


...by the time I did it would be too late to do anything about it, just like it is now.
...even if I did catch on...

That way...
That's why they limited the game to 12 matches...!



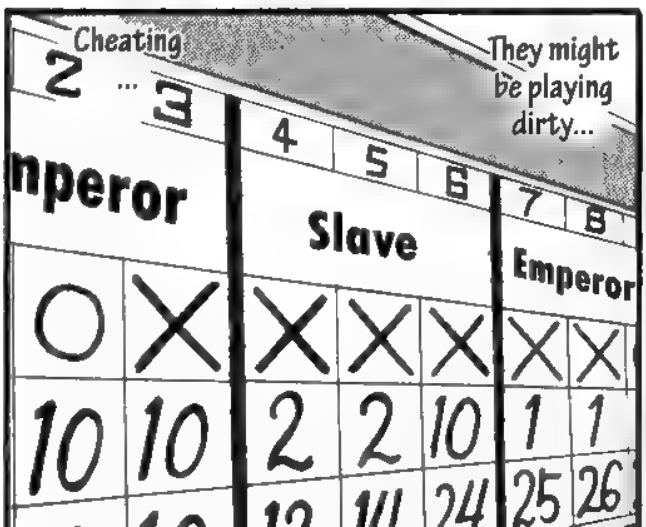
They picked just the right number...

Ngh...!

Those lowdown ...

It's unforgivable ...!
They won't get away with this ...!

But ...

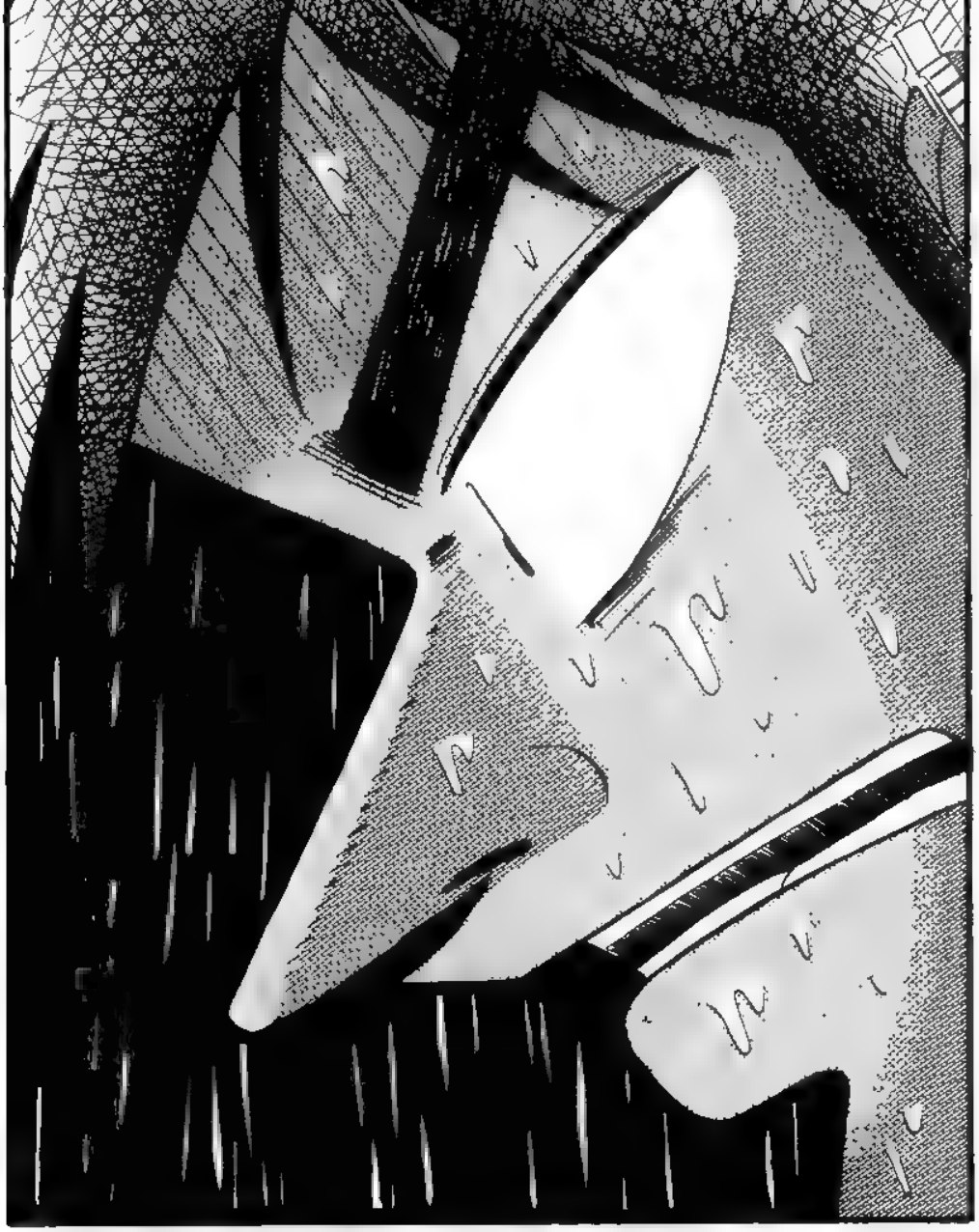

Cheating
They might be playing dirty...
2 ... 3
nperor
4 5 6
Slave
7 8
Emperor
10 10 2 2 10 1 1
25 26

What can I do ...?
But still ...

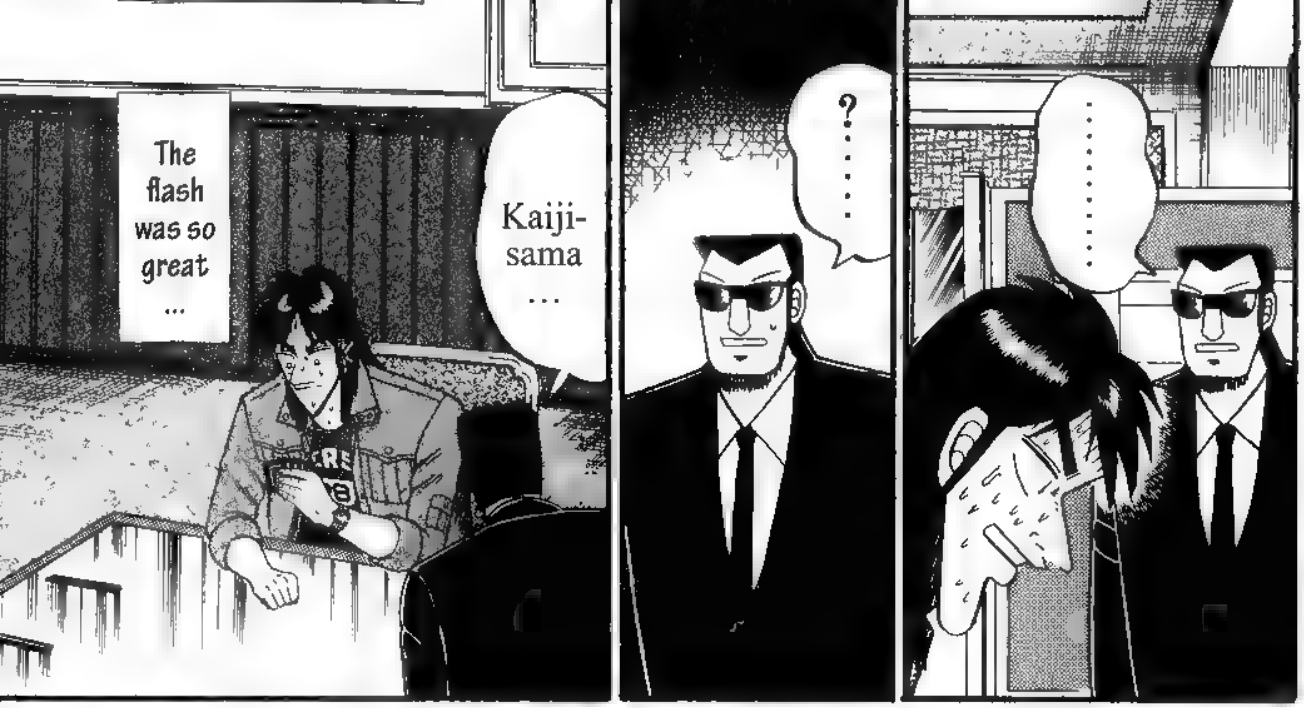
Suppose I asked to see the watch ...
... they'll own up to it!
... there's no way
But even if I accuse them ...
... like an ordinary, run-of-the-mill watch.
... so that it looks ...
In other words ...
..to turn off the receiver function
There might be a switch ...
... is pointless
... trying to expose them ...
Maybe it would help me pin down ...
It wouldn't stop me from losing ...
It would be useless ...!
SLAVE

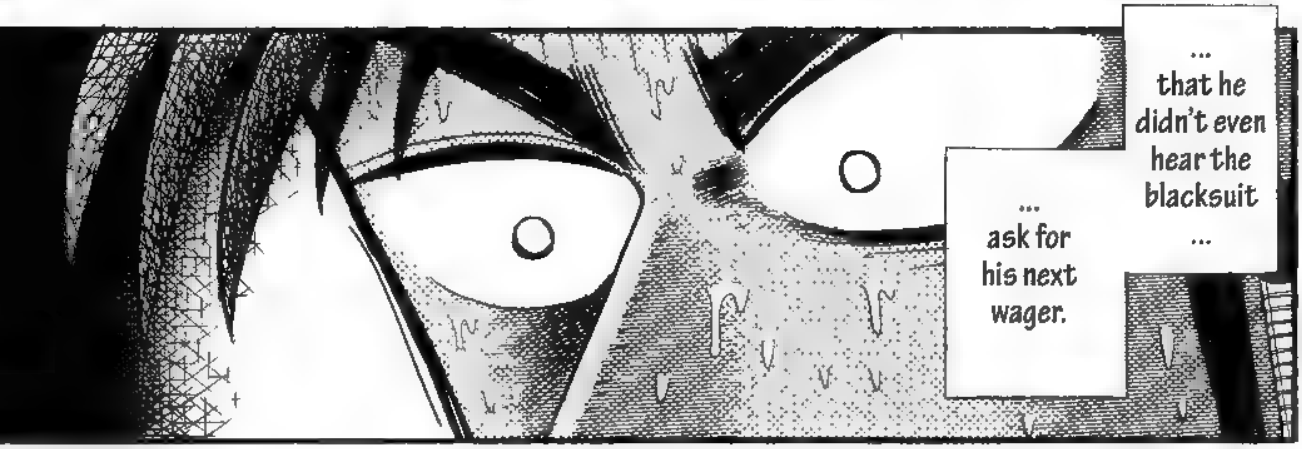
I'd still be out of options ...
... but then where would I be?
... their actual scam ...
It's a dead end ...!
They'd still know ...
SLAVE
What would it matter if I'd outsmarted them...
... my cards ...
At that moment ...

38



...Kaiji was overwhelmed by a flash of inspiration!

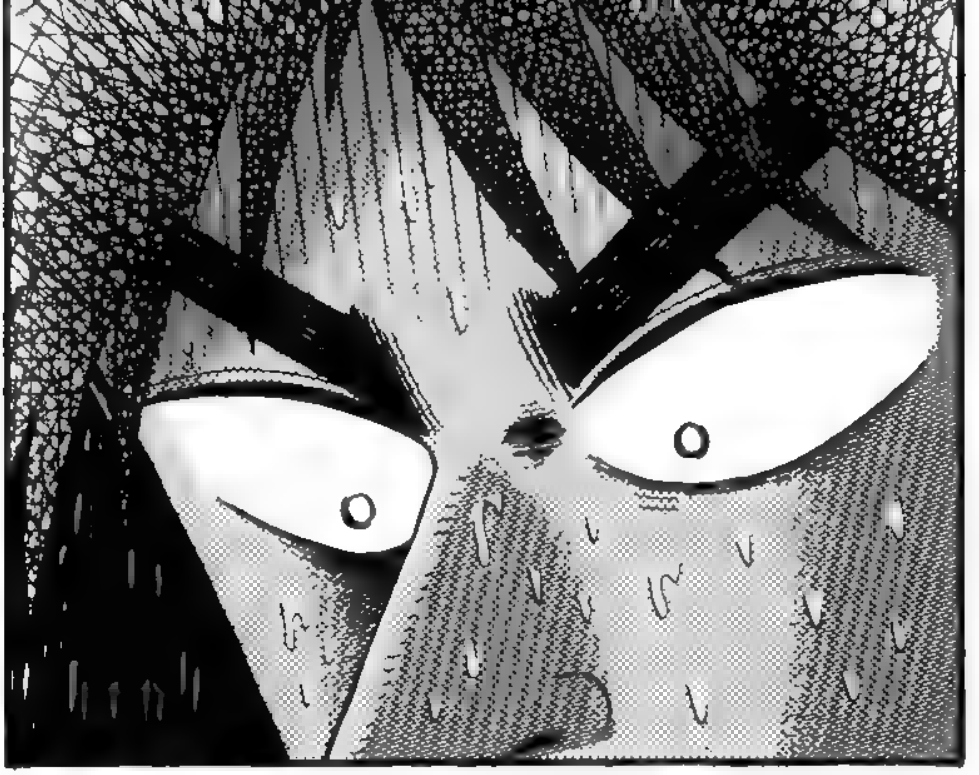


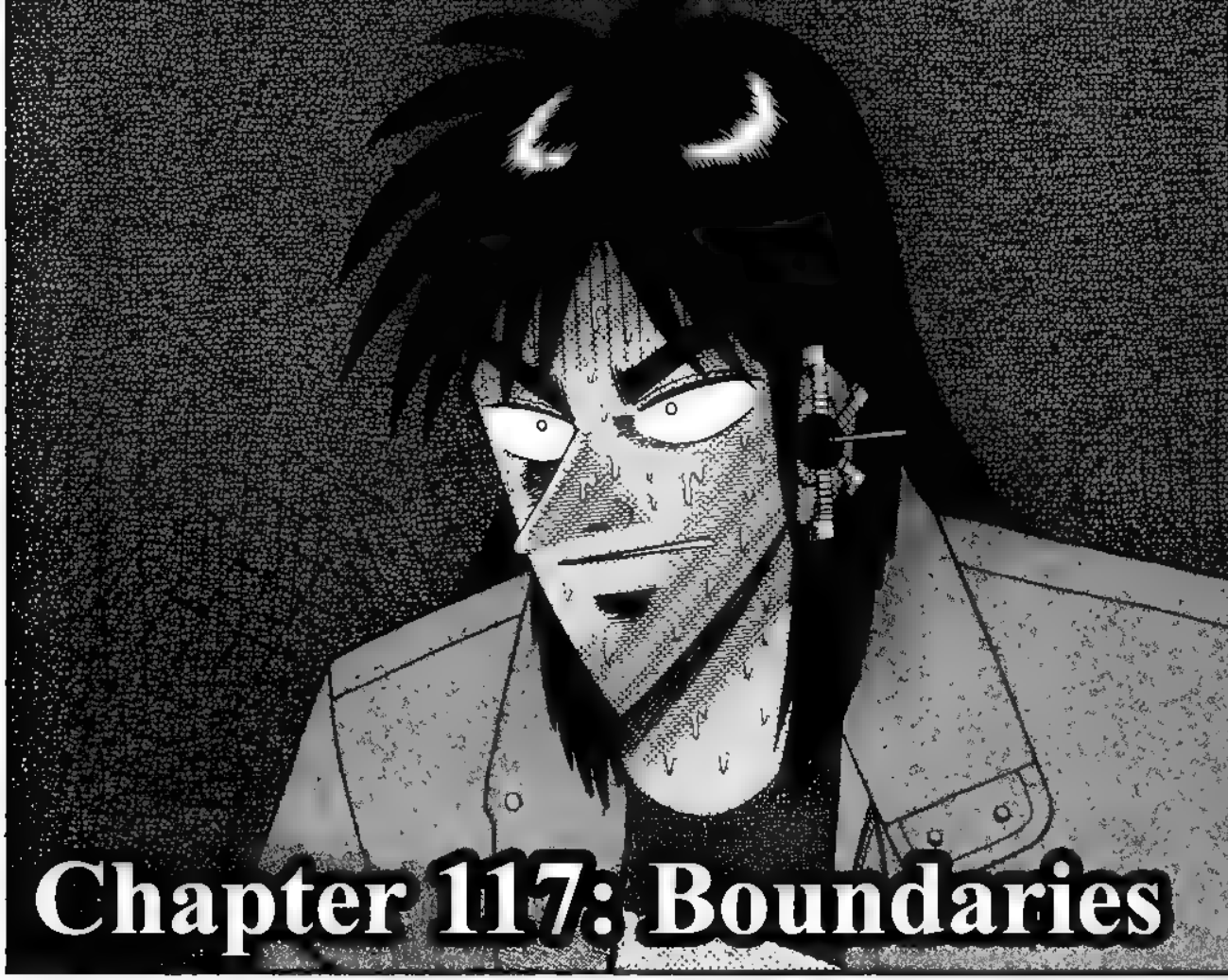


In the eleventh hour ...

End of Chapter 116

To catch a fiend...




Chapter 117: Boundaries

Tonegawa
...

Huh
...?
How far is it designed to go ...?

How far ...
?.....

.....
... can the needle go?
Just how far in...
The device on my ear ...
The device is designed ...
45 millimeters ...
... it can placed over the heart.
For instance ...
...so that it can be used on other areas as well.
Then that means ...
1
1
1
26
26
27

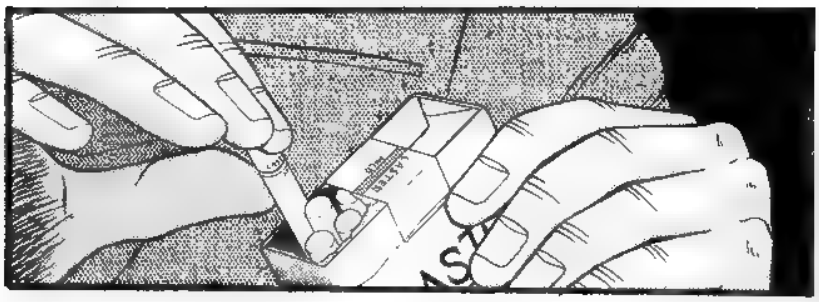
.....
... should still be able to advance 18mm ...
The needle ...
... 45 minus 27 ... 18mm ...
... that leaves ...
... since the needle has already moved 27mm ...
26
27

That has nothing to do with the matter before us.
... but what is your point?
True ...

It's starting to grow tedious.
It's gone on long enough ...
It's time this game came to an end..
Don't waste my time with pointless babbling ...!

Forget about the 30mm limit ...
Huh ...?
Can I bet it all ...!?
... for me to bet ...
Is it possible ...
...then there are still 18mm remaining.
If the limit was 45mm ...
... all 18mm!?

ざわ…
ざわ

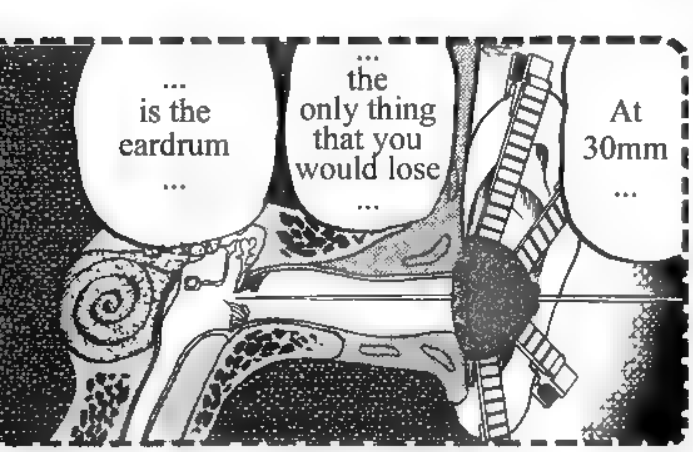


Phew
...
FWIP

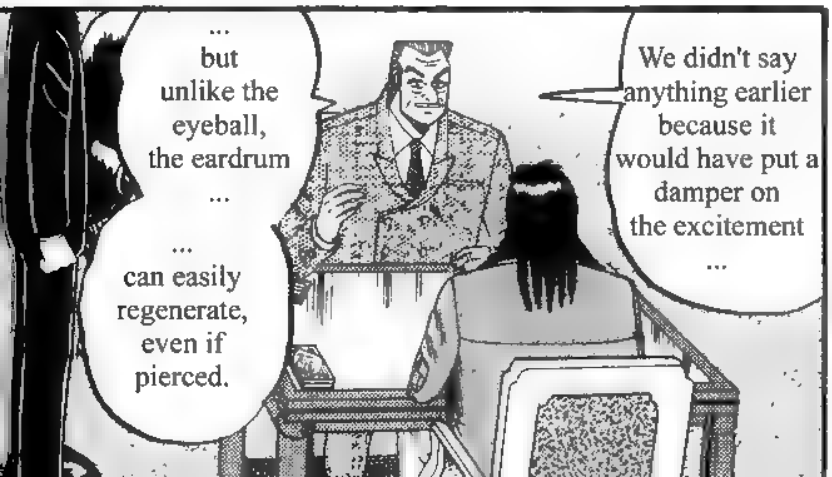
... what it is you're saying?
Do you even understand ...

You fool ...!

ざわ…

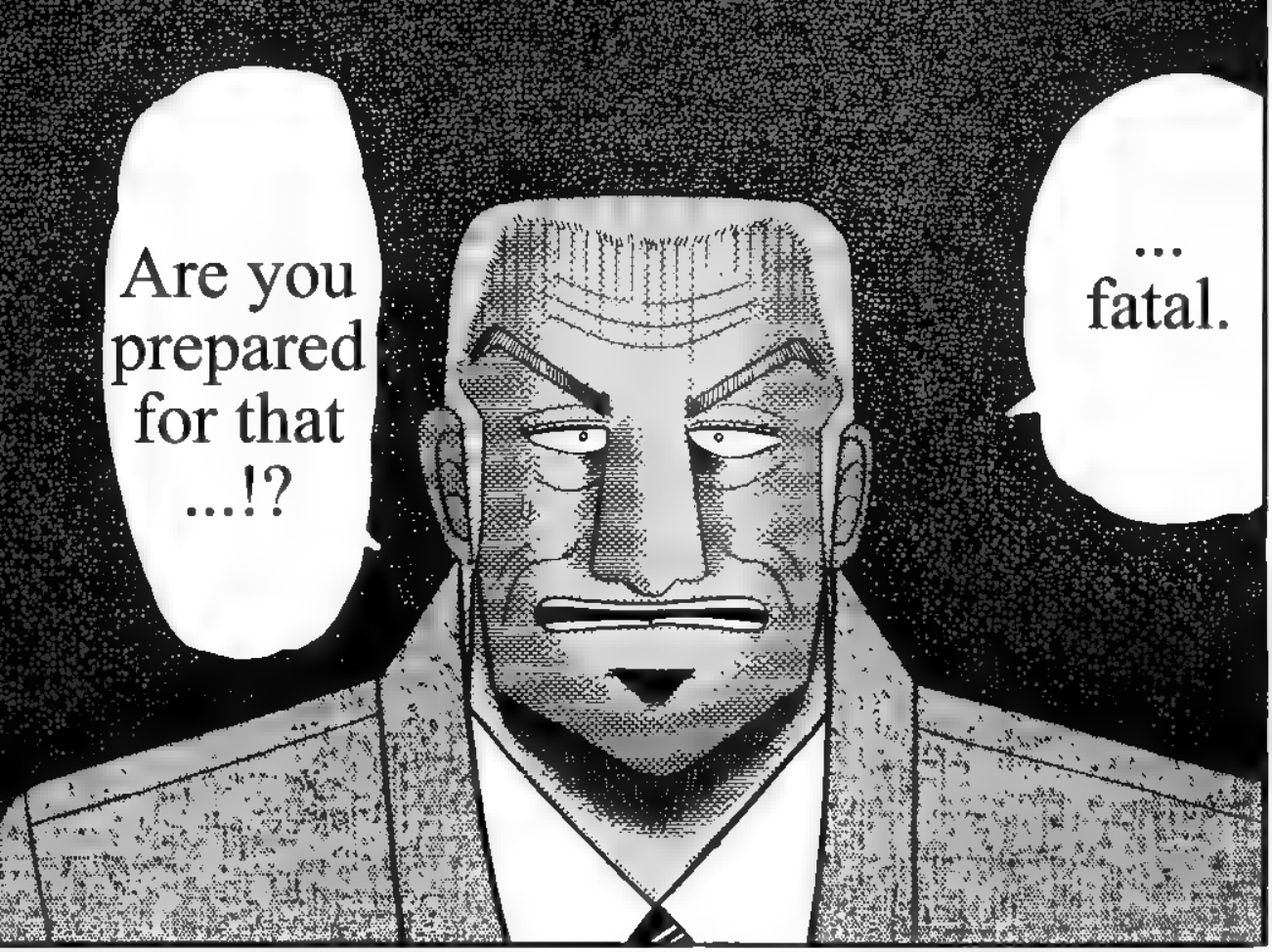

...
is the eardrum
...
...
the only thing that you would lose
...
At 30mm
...

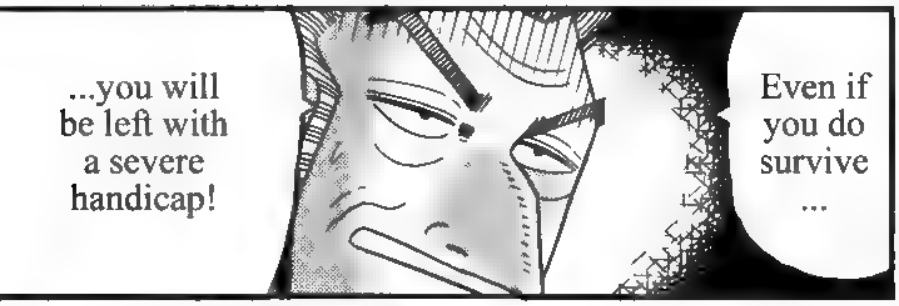
Let me explain something
...
You're outta your mind, kid...


...
but unlike the eyeball, the eardrum
...
...
can easily regenerate, even if pierced.
We didn't say anything earlier because it would have put a damper on the excitement
...

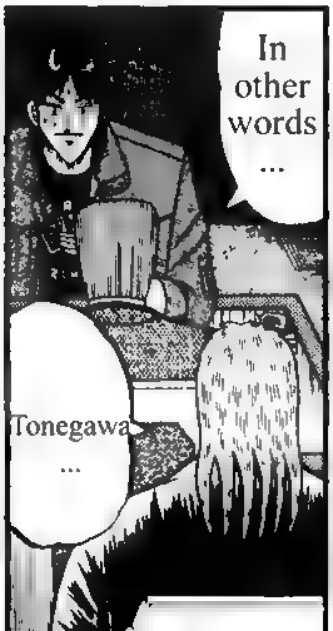
...
even that would be temporary.
In fact, if we're being honest
...

You would only lose your hearing in one ear temporarily.
.....
It would return to normal before you know it.
However
...
and past the middle ear, is the inner ear. If the needle proceeded there...
Inner Ear
Eardrum
Middle Ear
Beyond the eardrum ...
The inner ear is both complex and delicate.
Semicircular Canal
Cochlea
The semicircular canals... the osseous labyrinth... the cochlea...
The construction of the inner ear is much more complex than the eardrum.
... that would be another story.
In fact, in the worst case scenario ...
... it could even be ...
... would not stop at your hearing, it would extend to your sense of balance as well.
And the damage ...
Once it is destroyed it cannot regenerate.


Are you prepared for that ...!?
... fatal.

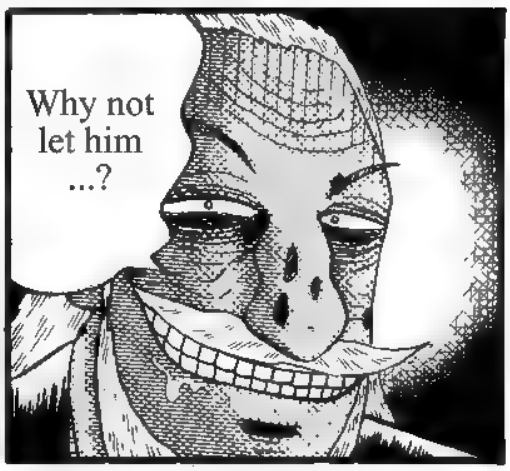

...you will be left with a severe handicap!
Even if you do survive ...

.....


In other words ...
Tonegawa ...

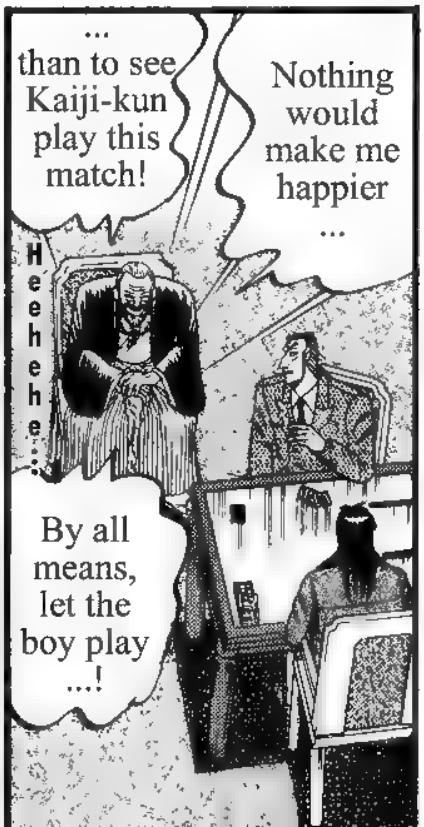
Hehehe
...

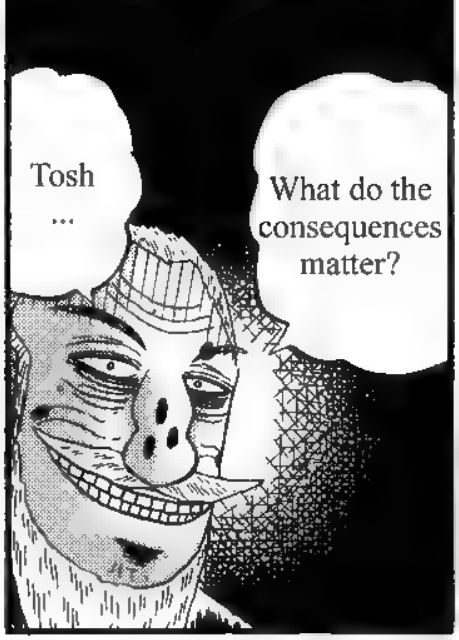
...
what could be more satisfying!?
Indeed
...


Why not let him ...?

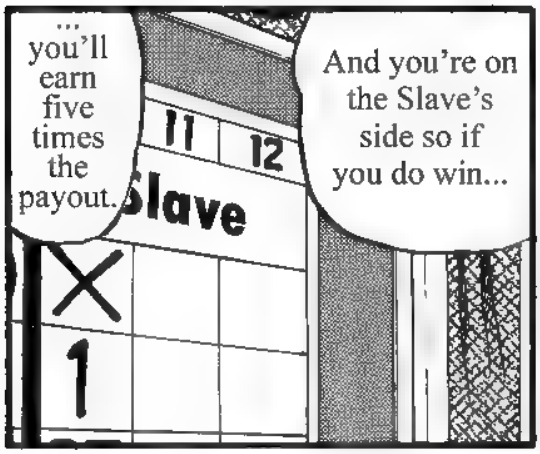
Consider it an act of charity ...!

Set the limit to 45mm and allow him to bet the last 18mm...

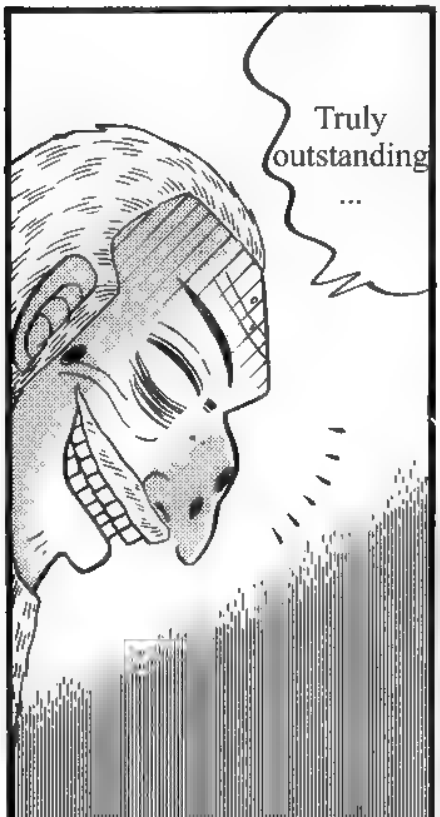

...
than to see Kaiji-kun play this match!
Nothing would make me happier ...
Heehehe...
By all means, let the boy play ...!


Tosh ...
What do the consequences matter?

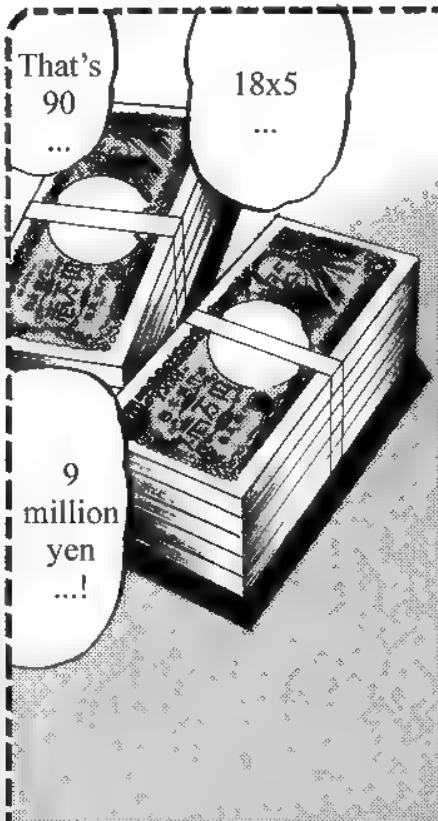
Hehehe ...
.....


... you'll earn five times the payout.
And you're on the Slave's side so if you do win...
11
12
Slave
X
1

It will hardly matter if you win.


Truly outstanding ...

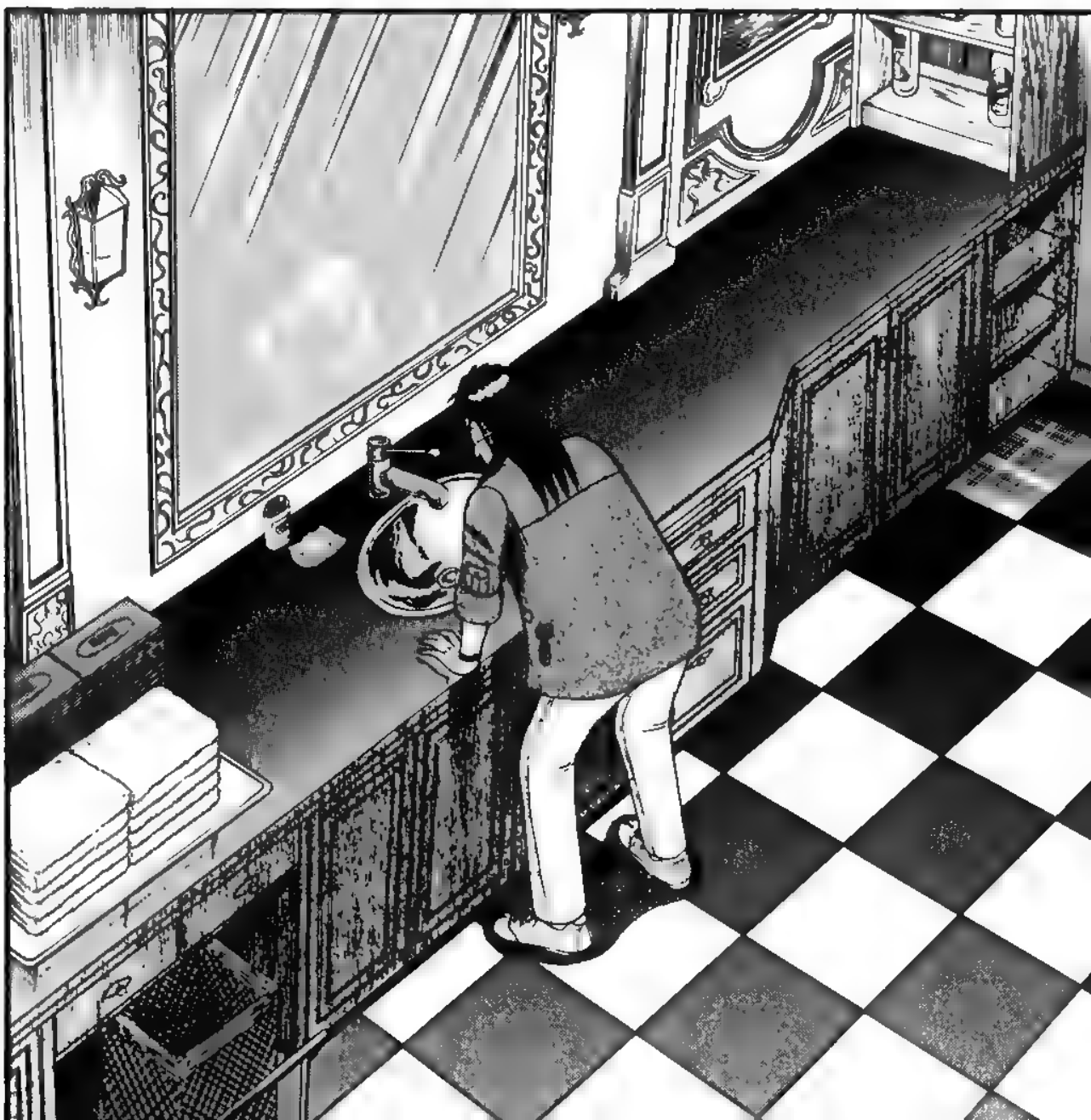
In the course of a few minutes you could win 9 million yen...!
Outstanding ...!
Heeheheee...

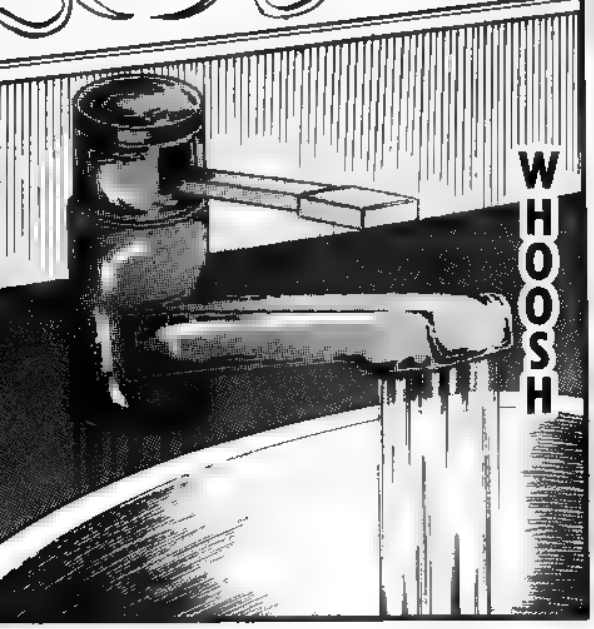

That's 90 ...
18x5 ...
9 million yen ...!

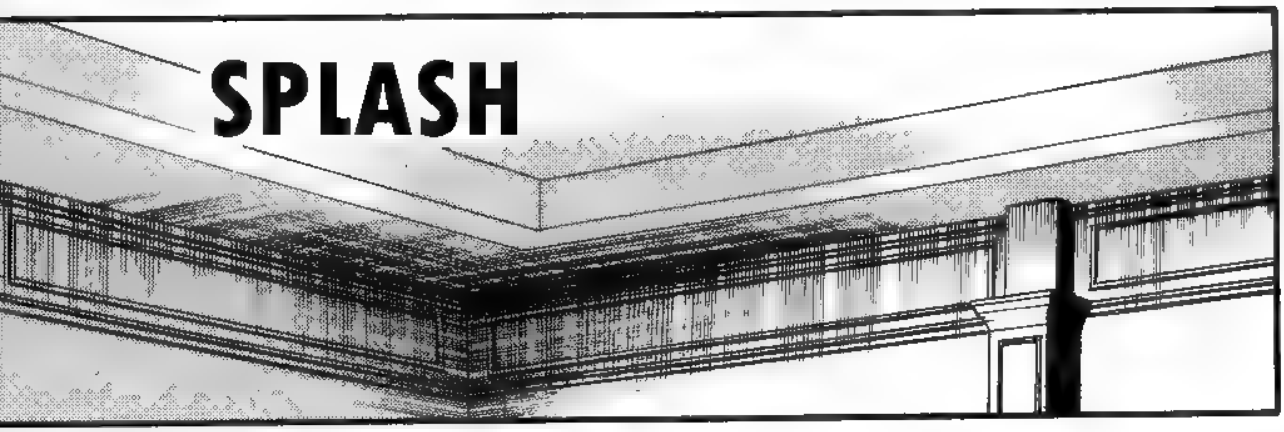
...
to
win both
matches
...
If, in fact,
you should
go on...
9x2
equals
18
...
Just a
moment
...
Hmm
...?
Hehehe
...
...
of 20
million
yen!
...you
could reach
that goal
you set at
the start...
...together
with the 2.1
million you have
already earned
...
...
what reason
is there to
hesitate!?
In
that case
...
Heeheheheee...
Truly
outstanding
...!
You'll be able
to reach
your goal
...!
Heeheheheee...
What a
magnificent
coincidence
...!
CRACK
Outstanding
...!

Wait ...!
Sir ...!
You heard him... 18mm ...!

Tsk
...
Give me a moment to think about it
...
CLATTER
Kaiji-san
...







The problem ...

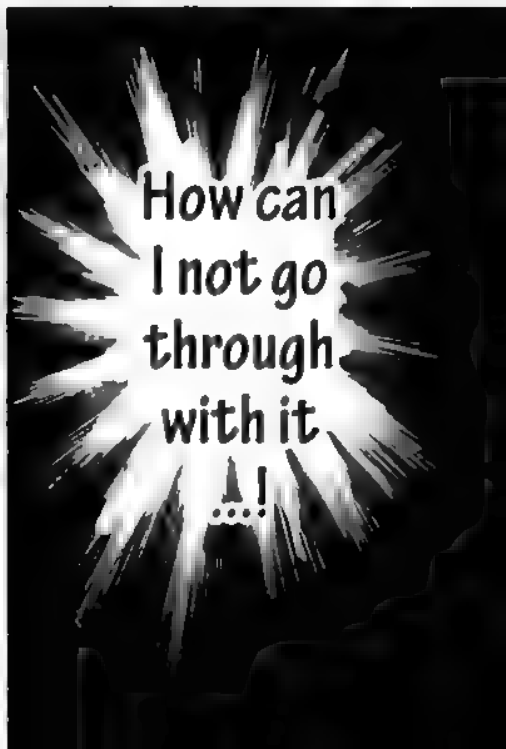
I can win ...!

End of Chapter 117

Chapter 118: Decisions

Can I really go through with it!!?

ERS
38
ERAM


How can I not go through with it ...!

If I'm not here to win then why bother living...!?

SOB
SOB
SOB

SOB
SOB
SOB

HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

SOB
SOB
SOB
Ngh ...!
Ngh ...!
SOB
SOB
Ngh ...!
Ngh ...!
SOB
SOB
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

Ngh
...!

Who's there ...!?

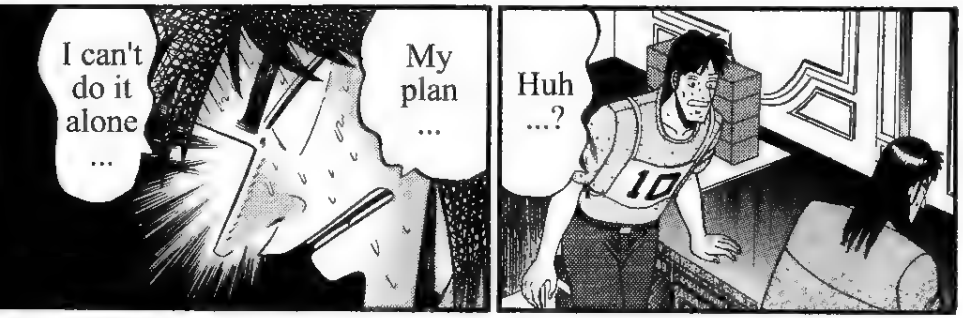
I just ...

Um ...
.....

.....

I mean, I guess you don't need to hear this from me...
But ...
I wanted to say ...
I just ...
:Nothing
What ...?
I never thought you'd really go through with it ...
I mean ...
.....
You're not gonna do it, are you...?
.....
.....
...but it looked like something was bothering you when you left...
Even ... just a little ...
...if you are thinking about it ...
So ... if ...
.....
.....

If you're really thinking about doing this...
...you gotta reconsider ...
You can't just gamble your life away ...
...in the heat of the moment like this.
Nothing's more important than life ...!
It's not just me saying this...
Everyone
Everyone feels the same...!
If you're really thinking about doing this...
...you gotta reconsider ...
You can't just gamble your life away ...
...in the heat of the moment like this.
Nothing's more important than life ...!
It's not just me saying this...
Everyone
All of us...
... wanna see you make it out of here.
You're not alone, Kaiji-san...
You're not alone ...


I can't do it alone ...
My plan ...

Huh ...?
10

Huh ...?
That's it...
.....

What ...?
10

.....
...I'm going to need accomplices!
10

Now that I realize it...
I need help...
10

I can't do it alone ...!
That's it...!
?.....
10

That's it...!

Huh ...?
?.....
10
This is divine providence.

You're going to help me...!

.....
That, and you coming in here just now, it can't be coincidence ...!
10
If I win the 11th and 12th matches...
...then I'll reach my original goal...
...of 20 million yen.
...are calling for revenge...
Ishida-san and Sahara ...
To bring their apocalypse ...
Heaven has chosen me to win...
.....
Please ...
Kaiji-san...
... demanding that I destroy Tonegawa!
And I'm going to do it...!

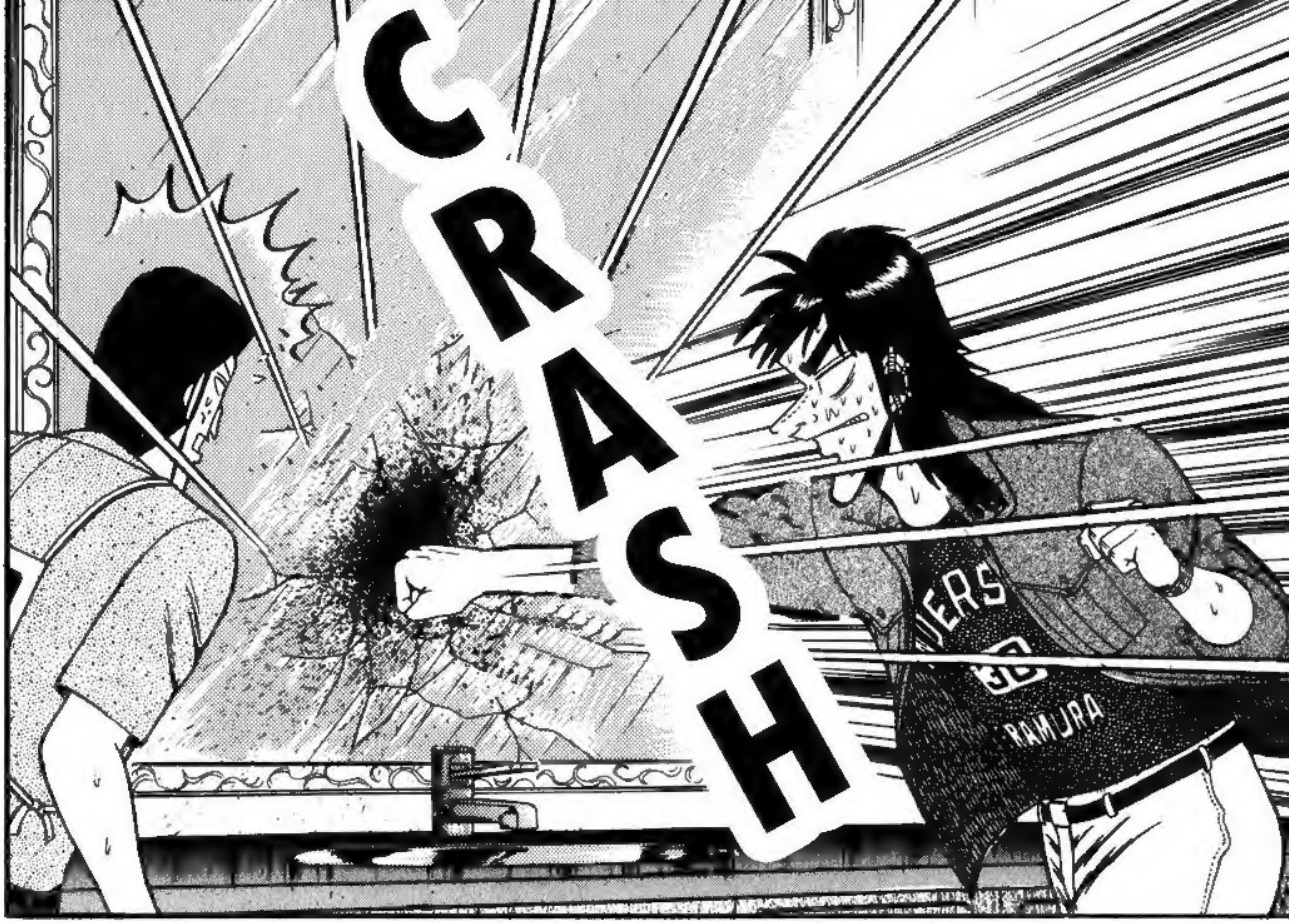
I will overcome whatever stands in my way and win ...
It's my only choice ...!
I have to win ...!
10
I'm doing it...!
Calm down ...!
P-Please ...
K-Kaiji-san...!
I have to...!
You're on the Slave's side...the odds against you are overwhelming ...!
Did you forget ...!?
... to just say you'll win.
It's not enough ...
10

The first step ...

Huh ...?

There is a way...!

...is this!



End of Chapter 118

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